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Clinton to host Rabin-Hussein summit July 25

Peres: A breakthrough of the highest order – a turning point in the Middle East

HILLEL KUTTLER,
DAVID MAKOVSKY and agencies

PRIME Minister Yitzhak Rabin and Jordan's King Hussein are to meet publicly for the first time at the White House next week, following an invitation by US President Bill Clinton.

Acceptance of the invitation was announced simultaneously in Washington, Jerusalem, and Amman on Friday.

The event, which Clinton called "another important step" in the peace process, is to take place next Monday, July 25, with a gala White House dinner to follow that night. A day or so afterward, the two leaders – with Clinton at their side – are to address a joint session of Congress.

"This historic meeting... reflects the courageous leadership and the bold vision which both King Hussein and Prime Minister Rabin have displayed as they work together to create a new future for their people and for all the region," Clinton said at the White House on Friday. "On behalf of all Americans, I salute their commitment to peace."

Foreign Minister Shimon Peres told Army Radio on Friday that "I imagine the summit will be a meeting with an open agenda in which each side may raise whatever it wants, but in general we're talking about the end of a state of war, the beginning of peace."

"It is a breakthrough of the highest order. It is a turning point in the Middle East," he said.

Peres had the first public meeting with a Jordanian official when he met with Crown Prince Hassan in Washington last September.

The summit will come just one month after the matter was raised in White House talks between Clinton and Hussein. Hussein told reporters then that he might soon agree to a "daylight" meeting with Rabin – but no one saw it coming so soon. Plans gained steam in recent days, following the king's statement to Jordan's parliament last weekend that he was prepared to meet Rabin.

Just last Wednesday, Jordan gave the administration its go-ahead for the event, according to Israeli sources in



Jordanian Ambassador to the US Faysel Tarawneh (right) and Information Minister Jawad Anani answer questions at a press conference in Amman on Friday, explaining their country's stand ahead of the upcoming peace talks with Israel.

Washington. US peace team coordinator Dennis Ross then engaged in intensive discussions over the next 48 hours with Ambassador Itamar Rabinovich and the Jordanians, before the arrangements were concluded late Thursday night.

Secretary of State Warren Christopher told reporters that, prior to announcing the July 25 meeting, Clinton telephoned Syrian President Hafez Assad "as a courtesy."

The Jordanians are seeking cancella-

tion of their \$700 million debt to the US, as well as military aid, as a reward for the Hussein-Rabin meeting. Those matters will be taken up by Clinton and Hussein on July 25, US officials said.

Clinton's announcement came just prior to Christopher's visit to the region, which is to begin in Jerusalem tomorrow. He will also travel to Syria and Egypt, as well as meet with PLO Chairman Yasser Arafat, likely in Gaza. On Wednesday, Christopher is due to par-

ticipate in a trilateral forum of the US-Israeli-Jordanian economic commission. The meetings, to be held on the Jordanian side of the Arava border, will include Foreign Ministers Shimon Peres and Abdul-Salam Majali (who is also Jordan's prime minister) and will follow two days of bilateral talks.

"All of this, of course, is a powerful reminder that changes are taking place which are transforming the Middle East," Christopher said. But he sought

to quell speculation the Arava meetings would culminate in a peace treaty to be signed in dramatic fashion at the July 25 summit. US officials said this would be too soon, given the wide agenda still to be negotiated.

Instead, what this week's economic talks "will do is, I think, confirm and give concrete form to the interest of the leaders in moving toward a final rapprochement," Christopher said at the White House briefing.

"What the [Rabin-Hussein] meeting really means is a determination on the part of these two important leaders to accelerate the progress toward the normalization of relations between their two countries."

Peres said he is optimistic that Jordan and Israel will sign a separate peace treaty without waiting for progress in the talks with Syria and Lebanon.

"I'm convinced that there is an excellent opportunity to reach a full treaty with King Hussein, without having to depend on other matters," Peres told Army Radio.

Meanwhile, Peres evaded answering questions about reports that Rabin and Hussein might initial a treaty draft during their Washington summit.

Reminded by Army Radio that he and Rabin have hinted the treaty has been nearly concluded, Peres said: "It's true, but that doesn't mean we don't need some time."

Peres expressed hope that Damascus would now also come around. "I believe the king is convinced that in the end we will reach a comprehensive peace in the Middle East, and I think he is right... Maybe Syria will now draw the necessary conclusions."

Hussein, broaching a normally taboo subject, said in Amman on Friday there is a possibility his kingdom could fragment if it did not forge ahead in bold peace steps with Israel.

"God forbid, this country under pressures may collapse in one way or another... the possibilities of an alternative homeland exist," the state news agency Petra quoted Hussein as saying in an address to army personnel.

"The possibility, God forbid, that this country fragments to parts, a part in the north, a part in the south... exists and there is no one behind us," he said.

Explaining Jordan's emboldened peace strategy with Israel, Hussein said his country faces pressures from all sides, and the Palestinians "took us by surprise" in moving ahead to tackle issues concerning them.

He told members of the Jordanian army's fourth mechanized artillery battalion that if the peace process went well, many opportunities would await his subjects in an era of "just peace," Petra reported.

At last, it's all out in the open

ANALYSIS
ALON PINKAS

KING Hussein's decision to meet Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin in public may mark a departure from his Syria-linked policies, but an example of new Middle East realities, including possibly more, rather than less, cooperation between Amman and Damascus.

King Hussein, who has secretly met Rabin twice, and Foreign Minister Shimon Peres at least three times since the current government was established two years ago this week, weighed his strategic priorities, his relations with the US, strained since the Gulf war, the Israeli-PLO accord and, most importantly, Syria's attitude, and ultimately decided that the time had come.

The long pause in Israeli-Jordanian talks since Crown Prince Hassan met Peres in Washington last year resulted partially from Damascus determining the pace of the negotiations, not allowing the Jordanians to proceed with what Rabin and Peres repeatedly depicted as "a peace agreement just around the corner."

It is a cliché to describe Hussein's encounters with Israel as a series of errors of judgment. The decisions to enter the 1967 war, to stay out of the 1973 war, to dissociate Jordan from the territories in 1988 following the abortive London agreement, and not to publicly meet Rabin earlier will all be history by the time the two meet on the White House lawn next Monday.

The decision to hold a summit in Washington immediately following a visit to the region by US Secretary of State Warren Christopher will bear fruit in terms of Jordanian-US relations, but it would not have been possible without the acquiescence of Syrian President Hafez Assad.

It is in this context that Peres' remark on Israel's recognition of Syrian sovereignty over the Golan Heights must be assessed. It appears that Hussein made two conditions prior to his consent to a meeting: that Syria approve of the step, which it did in principle, and that Israel publicly make an overture to Assad. Peres complied.

Syria will now leap to the top of the priority list, a development that will enable Jordan to slowly progress and eventually sign a peace agreement with Israel.

The Hashemite Kingdom's strategic predicament since its birth in 1921 and its independence in 1946 serves as both the reason underlying King Hussein's three-decade reluctance to publicly meet Israeli leaders and that behind his decision to finally do so.

A fictitious political entity carved out of a map in the corridors of imperial-era Whitehall, Transjordan, then Jordan, gradually became a legitimate state. But pressed between, and threatened by a Damascus intent on achieving its dream of "Greater Syria," a nationalistic and radical Iraq, a growing Palestinian national movement, and Israel, Jordan was compelled to act very cautiously.

This predicament still exists, only now the threats have changed. The evolution of a Palestinian entity, bringing back bad memories of Black September 1970, given that at least 50 percent of Jordan's population is Palestinian, a Syria lacking Soviet sponsorship, and the isolation created by Hussein's Gulf war support of Iraq impelled the king to reassess his position. He still needs Syrian consent, but Egyptian and especially American pressure have finally determined his decision.

Housing and fruit prices drive CPI up 1.4%

JOSE ROSENFELD

THE Consumer Price Index jumped 1.4 percent in June, as an expected moderation in housing prices did not materialize and fruit prices soared due to a poor harvest this summer.

Rahamin Ozama, head of the Central Bureau of Statistics' price division, estimated that inflation is now running at 14.5% annually, based on the past half year.

The cost of a standard basket of goods and services for the average urban family rose to NIS 5,940, including housing, compared with NIS 5,860 in May. Excluding housing, the basket cost NIS 4,570, compared with NIS 4,520.

Treasury officials were caught by surprise, expecting housing prices to moderate. Treasury internal estimates predicted that prices would only rise half a percentage point last month.

Last night, the Bank of Israel defended its anti-inflationary policies in the wake of June's high CPI.

"The figures prove that the Bank of Israel's assessments and warnings since the beginning of the year were right and the necessity for the bank's policy of monetary restraint, despite its unpopularity," said Bank of Israel Governor Jacob Frankel.

He reiterated, however, that the war on inflation cannot only be waged through an interest rate policy, and requires the immediate implementation of cabinet decisions to lower housing prices.

Industry and Trade Minister Micha Harish expressed concern over the high index which he blamed on housing prices and high interest rates. According to him,

on prices. By comparison, last year's June index only rose by 0.2%.

Fruit prices shot up 9.3% as plums were 89% more expensive, grapes 32% and peaches 25.5%. In contrast, vegetable prices fell by 6.4% and brought down the overall rise in fruit and vegetable price to 1.1% last month.

Ozama said he did not expect fruit prices to rise this month. He added that end of season sales will push clothing and footwear prices down.

"We are seeing significant rises in many of the index's components other than housing or fruits and vegetables, and that is worrisome," said Bank Hapoalim's chief economist Ptachia Bar-Shavit.

However, Bar-Shavit summed up the situation as "not great, but certainly not hopeless."

Higher interest rates now inevitable

COMMENT
NEIL COHEN

WHATEVER explanations or excuses the Treasury comes up with for last month's CPI, there can be no doubt that we once again have an inflation problem.

To be sure, soaring housing prices remain the core of that problem and the Treasury and the Bank of Israel will be worried that little has really been done to tackle them. They would do well to bear in mind that even when action is taken, it will take several

months to have an impact. But this latest CPI showed inflation poking through in transportation, clothing, health and education. By the same token, health costs will continue to rise when the new National Health Law takes effect.

Some of the non-housing inflation was sparked by the overly-generous public sector wage agreements signed by the government. It is too soon to tell what effect housing prices had on other areas of the economy.

growth at all costs has proved unwise and both it and the central bank must shoulder blame for not spotting inflationary tendencies and heading them off sooner.

It was complacent to view 8 percent inflation as acceptable and higher interest rates are now inevitable. The Bank of Israel will have to demonstrate a deft touch and the Treasury considerable fiscal responsibility if growth is not to be brought to a shuddering halt.

Arafat tells Jerusalem Arabs not to sell land to Jews

GAZA (Reuters) – PLO Chairman Yasser Arafat appealed to Palestinians in eastern Jerusalem yesterday not to sell their property to Israelis, saying the self-rule authority would buy it instead.

At tomorrow's cabinet meeting, the government will discuss two bills which seek to restrict the activities of the Palestinian Authority in Jerusalem.

"I want to request from the people of Jerusalem to stop selling land and property in Jerusalem [to Israelis]," Arafat told a visiting Palestinian delegation from Jerusalem at the Palestine Hotel, his temporary headquarters.

Delegates complained to Arafat that Israel was confiscating their property in Jerusalem or pressur-

ing them to sell. Some said financial problems compelled them to sell.

Arafat said: "Whoever is in need of money, tell me. Abu Amar [Arafat], come and buy, and I will solve his problems."

"Now we have a Palestinian National Authority and whoever feels conditions compel him to sell should come to it and ask it to buy instead of selling it [to Israelis]."

Arafat charged that Israel was violating the autonomy accord with the PLO by trying to make geographic and demographic changes in Jerusalem and by closing the holy city to Palestinians from outside.

"[Prime Minister Yitzhak] Rabin promised to solve this problem of closing Jerusalem but I don't think our coming days will be milk and honey. Our path is very difficult and long," he said.

Arafat called on Arab residents of Jerusalem and on Palestinian opposition groups to unite and support him in maintaining the

Arab and Moslem character of Jerusalem.

On Friday, Arafat and a leading deputy were censured by Israeli officials for asserting that Palestinians can unfurl their flag in Jerusalem.

Senior aide Yasser Abed-Rabbo, an information minister in the autonomy authority, was quoted as vowing Palestinians would regain all of Palestine and fly a flag over Jerusalem's Al-Aksa mosque.

Asked about Abed-Rabbo's comments, Arafat said: "It is my right to raise the Palestinian flag over Jerusalem, over the walls of Jerusalem and over the minarets of Jerusalem and the churches of Jerusalem. This is my right."

"This is a very grave statement," Deputy Foreign Minister Yossi Beilin replied on Israel Radio. "These kinds of statements don't bring closer the understanding between the two sides and they should refrain from making them."

Government Press Office director Uri Droni said such remarks undermined attempts to build Israeli public confidence in the Israel-PLO accord.

"We try to ignore these things," Droni said. "But they make it difficult for us."

Later Friday, Arafat went to the al-Omari mosque in Gaza City for his first prayer service since his return to Gaza two weeks ago.

Later he spoke of threats to the peace process.

"There are some attempts to destroy the peace deal – not only by the Hebron massacre but also by the closure of Jerusalem," Arafat told visiting Israeli Arabs and Druse led by Deputy Agriculture Minister Walid Sadiq.

Arafat said the settler who shot dead some 30 Palestinians at prayer in the Machpele Cave had backing for his deed. "The Ibrahim mosque massacre was done by Baruch Goldstein but not as an individual act. There is an organization behind it," Arafat said.

1,500 march around Old City, far in excess of High Court limit

BILL HUTMAN

OVER 1,500 anti-government protesters marched around Jerusalem's Old City last night in apparent violation of a High Court ruling last week limiting the number of protesters to 500 marchers.

While police took no action to prevent the marchers from proceeding, organizers of the Women in Green march charged the authorities with "undemocratic tactics."

"I am very disappointed that the police are treating us like terrorists," said Women in Green co-chairwoman Nadia Matar. She said the protest was in the tradition of past Tisha be'Av mourning marches around the Old City.

Hundreds of police officers accompanied the protesters and prevented marchers from entering the Old City gates.

Jerusalem police on Friday raided a print shop hired by a right-wing group to print an allegedly illegal call to demonstrate. The home of the group's leader was also raided. The group, the "Joint Headquarters," had called for a massive protest march around the Old City last night.

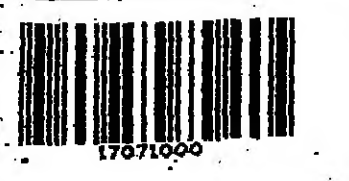
They seized originals of the posters printed by the Joint Headquarters for use as evidence.

About 100 of the posters were found at the home of the group's chairman, Ya'acov Novick, who has been summoned for questioning today. Last week, he was interrogated by police for threatening Jerusalem police chief Cmdr. Arye Amit. Novick denied the allegations and charged police with brutality against right-wing protesters.

Despite last week's High Court ruling permitting a small gathering there, police may forbid the Temple Mount Faithful from entering the Temple Mount this morning on grounds their presence would constitute a security threat.

Last night, police sources said no final decision had been made on the group's request to enter the Temple Mount at 10 this morning. Amit was expected to decide this morning.

Meanwhile, police met with Wakf officials over the weekend to ensure the Moslem religious trust is kept abreast of the Temple Mount Faithful's plans.



Hussein adviser says king to visit Jerusalem this year

DOUGLAS DAVIS and news agencies

KING Hussein of Jordan will visit Jerusalem this year to pray in the Al-Aksa mosque where his grandfather King Abdullah was assassinated in 1951.

Nasser Eddin Nashashibi, a close friend and adviser to Hussein, told Reuters: "The king will visit Jerusalem to pray in al-Aksa this year but when I don't know. It depends on how the [Israeli-Jordanian] peace negotiations are going."

In a move expected to pave the way for a peace agreement between Jordan and Israel, the king accepted a US invitation on Friday to hold his first public meeting with Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin in Washington on July 25.

Nashashibi, a former adviser to Hussein's grandfather, said he passed on an Israeli invitation to the king last month to visit the holy city.

"I delivered a formal invitation to the king to visit Jerusalem. The invitation was extended to the king by former Jerusalem mayor Teddy Kollek," Nashashibi said.

"The invitation was approved by the Israeli government and by Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin," he added. "Jerusalem is of great significance for King Hussein," Nashashibi said.

"Hussein has a religious, an emotional and personal historical attachment to Jerusalem."

He said Hussein was entrusted with the mission of guarding the holy sites in Jerusalem after Abdullah was assassinated at the mosque entrance on July 20, 1951.

"Hussein is a descendant of the Prophet Mohammed. That is also why the holy place in Jerusalem has religious importance for him," Nashashibi said.

In a related development, Jordan's Crown Prince Hassan has sharply rebuked a senior Vatican official for demanding urgent talks on establishing international custody over the holy places in eastern Jerusalem.

Following a three-day visit to Jordan last week, Vatican "foreign minister" Archbishop Jean-Louis Tauran declared that it would be "dangerous" to delay talks about the status of Jerusalem.

Tauran, who visited Amman to prepare the ground for the arrival of a Vatican envoy and to confer with Hassan, said Jerusalem was in danger of losing its character as a symbol of coexistence between followers of the three monotheistic faiths.

Hassan responded that raising the

issue of religious custody over the holy sites in Jerusalem was "premature" and could arouse "passions that might be detrimental" to the peace process.

Jordan's role in administering Islamic sites in Jerusalem, he said, was "recognized and accepted by the international community of Muslims."

"By definition, a trust or endowment is a sacred trust that we continue to extend to mosques and holy places... to every aspect of religious responsibility," he said.

This was not "a possessive Jordanian claim," he said. "It is a religious responsibility and should be understood as such as we move towards further awareness and consciousness of Jerusalem within the context of the Old City, the inter-religious future of Jerusalem."

"Our hope is that the day will come when shared responsibility will include the symbols of the Star [of David], the Cross and the Crescent, and could ultimately be guaranteed by the international community of states."

Foreign Minister Shimon Peres said last week that Israel had no interest in harming Jordan's influence over the Muslim holy places.



One-hundred Peace Now Youth cyclists arrive in Tel Aviv on Friday on the first leg of a six-day ride ending tomorrow in Arad. The peace demonstrators are due to meet with Foreign Minister Shimon Peres today. (Akon Ron/Israel Sun)

Israeli-Jordanian teams complete technical preparations for summit

AMMAN (Reuters) - Jordanian and Israeli officials on Friday ended technical talks to prepare for a ground breaking meeting next week between US Secretary of State Warren Christopher, Foreign Minister Shimon Peres, and Jordanian Prime Minister Abdul-Salam Majali, who is also foreign minister.

"The two delegations ended their talks and left the hotel together," an official of Jordan's Dead Sea Spa Hotel said.

The Israeli team had crossed into Jordan via a Jordan River bridge, marking the first time since 1948 an Israeli official publicly set foot on Jordanian soil.

They were whisked to the heavily-guarded hotel, which will enter history when it hosts the meeting.

The three men will sit on a U-shaped table and the opening ceremony and respective speeches will be beamed live by Jordanian, Israeli, and other television networks. The opening ceremony, beginning around 10 a.m., will be aired on Channel One, Radio 2, and Arabic Radio.

"It was a business-like meeting to discuss preparations and technical details for the July 20 talks," a Jordanian official told Reuters. He gave no further details and journalists were banned from approaching the hotel, an hour's drive from Amman.

An Israeli Foreign Ministry spokeswoman said the advance team to the hotel talks was led by Deputy Director-General Eytan Bentsur.

They met Marwan Muasher, spokesman for Jordan's peace team, and the Foreign Ministry's Omar Rifa'i.

Talks on border demarcation, water, and other issues open Monday at a desert outpost on the Jordanian-Israeli cease-fire line some 13 km. north of Eilat. Jordanian and Israeli officials said the negotiating table would be right on the cease-fire line, with negotiators sitting on their respective sides of the divide.

Muasher said on Thursday the sides would iron out minor differences over the talks on Sunday. They had a preparatory meeting in the southern desert site last Wednesday.

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Clinton tells Assad by phone: U.S. wants comprehensive peace in Middle East

DAMASCUS (Reuters) - US President Bill Clinton has assured Syrian President Hafez Assad in a telephone call that Washington wants a comprehensive peace settlement in the Middle East, an official Syrian spokesman said yesterday.

He said Clinton's assurance was given during a telephone call to the Syrian leader on Friday.

The call was made shortly before Clinton announced that a historic meeting between King Hussein of Jordan and Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin would be held in Washington on July 25.

Syria, which criticized Jordan's unilateral peace moves towards Israel as being a deviation from Arab unity and also has criticized the Palestine Liberation Organization's peace deal

with Israel, has not yet commented on the Hussein-Rabin summit.

The Syrian official said talks between Clinton and Assad dealt with developments of the peace process and the tour of US Secretary of State Warren Christopher to the region due to start today.

Meanwhile, Syria was unimpressed yesterday by a statement by Foreign Minister Shimon Peres endorsing Syria's sovereignty over the Golan Heights.

Israeli officials and commentators described Peres's Thursday statement, in which he said Israel had repeatedly accepted the concept of Syrian sovereignty over the Golan, as a big step towards breaking the deadlock in its talks with Damascus.

But the Syrian government daily

Tishreen said Peres's remark "added nothing new because it was a recognition of a fact."

It urged Israel to announce its readiness to withdraw fully from the Golan Heights, in order to break a deadlock in the 33-month-old Syrian-Israeli peace talks.

"Occupation, however long it was, could not cancel Syria's sovereignty over the Golan which is a Syrian land that should be returned to its real owners in accordance with UN resolutions and the US Middle East peace initiative," it said.

The Syrian government daily noted that Peres "refused any suggestion requiring Israel to withdraw from the occupied Syrian Golan and then to conduct discussions on peace."

Also in Damascus yesterday, For-

eign Minister Farouk Sharaa met Russian presidential envoy Viktor Posavalyuk to discuss recent developments in the Middle East peace process.

Diplomats said Boris Yeltsin's representative was expected to persuade Sharaa to end Syria and its ally Lebanon's boycott of the multilateral track of the Mideast talks.

Posavalyuk, head of the Russian Foreign Ministry's Africa and the Middle East department, arrived in Damascus Thursday after heading Moscow's delegation to regional, multilateral talks in Tunisia.

The Russian envoy told reporters at the end of those talks that he hoped Syria and Lebanon join the ongoing forum, which was also attended by Americans, Israelis and Arabs.

Arafat calls on Palestinian press to censor itself for national interest

YASSER Arafat suggested yesterday that Palestinian journalists censor themselves, saying they should act "in Palestine's interest."

Arafat spoke to a delegation of about 100 Palestinian journalists who came to meet him at the Palestine Broadcasting Corp. office.

Naim Toubasi, head of the Palestine Journalists' Association, read the demands of fellow journalists to Arafat.

Topping the list was a request for freedom of speech and freedom of the Palestinian press and a guarantee that the press union will be free from interference by politicians.

Gaza journalists also brought up the sometimes brutal way in which Arafat's security guards have treated reporters, beating some of them or hurting insults.

Arafat promised that he would respect freedom of expression in pri-

vately owned publications, including those put out by opposition parties.

"But I can't accept that our press be fed by imported ideas... or bought by Arab, Western or Asian countries," said Arafat.

"You are forming ideas and influencing public opinion. I hope this formation of ideas will be in Palestine's interest and not against it. It's my right to say that," he said.

"I beseech you in the name of Palestine, your martyrs and the children of the stone and by every holy site in this land to be responsible journalists," he added.

Meanwhile, the Palestine News Agency, Wafa, began operating in the autonomous areas. It released a seven-page newsletter that listed Arafat's activities.

Also yesterday, Arafat said the cornerstone for Gaza's port will be laid August 1.

Arafat told a delegation of Gaza industrialists that a consortium-of three companies from Holland, France and Italy will build the port. He did not disclose the location of the port.

The new port will make it possible for Gazans to import and export goods directly without having to go through Israeli or Egyptian dealers.

Arafat also met with US Consul General Edward Abington, a few days before his expected talks with US Secretary of State Warren Christopher.

Abington told reporters that he discussed economic issues with Arafat and touched briefly on Christopher's visit to the area. Abington said it still was not clear when and where Christopher and Arafat will meet.

"I know that Mr. Christopher is looking forward to seeing the Chairman [Arafat]," said Abington. (AP)

Peres to Saudi paper: Syria remains 'enigma'

SYRIA remains "one large enigma" and its strategy of peace "sounds like a strategy in disguise," Foreign Minister Shimon Peres told the Arabic-language daily al-Hayat on Friday.

In an interview with the Saudi-owned paper, which circulates throughout the Arab world, Peres also outlined the parameters of the negotiations with Jordan and said he believed King Hussein was ready to sign a separate deal with Israel.

He was critical of PLO leader Yasser Arafat for failing to create the appropriate institutions for receiving and disbursing aid from the international donors, noting that "no donor will give pocket money to Arafat."

Interviewed by the paper's Jerusalem correspondent, Ruba Hosri, and Maher Othman, Peres said that "in the eyes of the Israelis, Syria is one large enigma. We can hardly read what is going on there."

"We know general things. At the beginning there was a strategy [military] equilibrium. Now it is a strategy of peace. But it sounds like a strategy in disguise. When it comes down to it, we don't see pragmatic facts."

Israel was ready to negotiate with Syria, said Peres, "but Assad wants to start from the end: 'Hand us everything back and then we will talk.' Why should we?"

Would Syria present an obstacle to peace, he was asked. "Syria can be an obstacle to Syria itself."

Do you think Hussein will sign separately with Israel? "I think it is possible, yes. Hussein has said the time has come, and he is right."

He said his Wednesday meeting with US Secretary of State Warren

Christopher and Jordanian Prime Minister Abdessalam Majali would aim to achieve a "master plan," as well as defining priorities and discussing various "mechanisms of negotiations."

In the course of the interview, Peres stressed a number of points that he clearly wanted to transmit to Jordan in advance of the meeting:

● Israel, he said, recognized the legitimacy of the Hashemite Kingdom: "You know there are voices in the Likud which say that 'Jordan is Palestine.' We would like to say to King Hussein that 'Jordan is Jordan' and 'Jordan is not Palestine.'"

● Israel had no desire to cause any slight to the sovereignty of Jordan - "not in the way of hurting their pres-

tige or of hurting their possessions... That sentiment also applied to water: "In our judgment," he said, "the problem is how to redress the scarce water and how to produce more water."

● He acknowledged Jordan's "connections, responsibilities and sensitivities concerning the holy places in Jerusalem. We are not going to reduce it or ignore it."

● The notion that Israel was seeking economic domination of the region was "sheer nonsense... We are sincere in wanting to see the Middle East becoming modern, open with a high standard of living [based] on the understanding that economy is ruled by competition, not by domination."

Peres praised Hussein for demonstrating "responsibility and understanding. So did his grandfather, Abdallah, who paid for it with his life," he said.

NEWS IN BRIEF

Shahal could see Palestinian state
Police Minister Moshe Shahal said on Friday he could envisage the creation of a Palestinian state on terms dictated by Israel. Shahal said he was not deviating from official policy, which favors something less than the state sought by Palestinians in Judea, Samaria, and the Gaza Strip. *Reuters*

Development towns call off strike
The heads of the development towns called off their strike on Friday after a meeting with Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin, who also serves as interior minister.

The government promised to investigate claims that wage increases were the cause of overpricing on the part of the municipal governments. *Itim*

PLO Fida party members cross to Jericho
Fifteen senior members of PLO official Yasser Arafat's Fida party, turned back by Israel on Wednesday, crossed the Jordan river to Jericho on Friday, a party spokesman said.

"Their bus crossed the bridge to the other side without any complications, after the Jordanian liaison officer confirmed from the Israeli side their names were there," a Fida spokesman said.

Three were turned back by the Jordanian bridge authorities because they had non-Jordanian travel documents. *Reuters*

Malaysian leader denies meeting Rabin
Malaysian leader Mahatir Mohammad has denied a report that he had secretly met with Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin earlier this month in Paris. "We deny the report. No meeting was held," an aide of Mohammad said on Friday.

New Channel 2 reported Thursday night that the two had met while Rabin was in Paris to accept the UNESCO peace prize. *Itim*

Tze'elim trial open to families tomorrow
The Tel Aviv Military Court decided Friday to open tomorrow's session of the Tze'elim - 2 trial to the families of the five General Staff commando unit soldiers killed in the November, 1992 accident. The court would not disclose who will testify tomorrow. This is the third time the court has decided to allow representatives of the families to be present in an otherwise behind-closed-doors trial of two officers charged with negligence and recklessness leading to the accident.

Kuwaiti envoy to Washington talks about recognizing Israel

KUWAIT (AP) - Kuwait's ambassador to Washington was quoted yesterday as saying nothing should stop his country from recognizing Israel after the issues of occupied Arab land and Palestinian rights are settled.

"There are no religious obstacles that would stop Kuwait from recognizing Israel," Ambassador Mohammed Sabah al-Salem al-Sabah was quoted as telling the newspaper Al-Wakeel.

"If the issues of the occupation of land and the rights of Palestinian people are dealt with, there should be nothing to stop the Arab League from issuing a decision that would allow the Arab countries to recognize Israel," Sheikh Mohammed, a member of Kuwait's royal family, was quoted as saying.

"We hope that all countries of the area will live in peace and security, including Israel. Peace means secure boundaries and justice for all," he added, according to the newspaper.

The ambassador provoked sharp criticism in the Kuwaiti press last March when he said Kuwaitis were the Jews of the Gulf.

Sheikh Mohammed later said his remark was misunderstood. He said it was a joke he made to American Jews who visited Kuwait's Washington embassy.

In yesterday's interview with Al-Wakeel, Sheikh Mohammed again explained that he meant that Kuwaitis and Jews shared a love for arguing and for freedom of expression.

Lebanese troops arrest Hizbullah gunmen after engaging in shoot-out

News Agencies

LEBANESE troops yesterday arrested two Hizbullah gunmen and demanded the surrender of six others after a shoot-out in south Lebanon, police said.

The firefight erupted when the army stepped in to put down a quarrel between the Hizbullah and Amal, in which one Amal militiaman suffered a knife wound, a police statement said.

Hizbullah gunmen fired on the troops in the village of Zibdah, near Nabatieh, with automatic rifles and the soldiers returned fire, according to the police report.

It said soldiers apprehended two Hizbullah men involved in the shooting, but six others escaped into nearby ravines. The army command warned Hizbullah's leadership to

hand them over quickly "or else they will be taken by force." No deadline was set for the surrender.

In several similar incidents in the past, Hizbullah's leadership carved in to avert a major confrontation with Lebanon's army.

Meanwhile, a Hizbullah leader forecast far-reaching difficulties in the peace talks between Israel, Syria, and Lebanon this year.

Israel is demanding too much from Syria, Sheikh Naim Kassam, deputy director-general of Hizbullah, told *Magazine*, a French-language monthly published in Beirut, on Friday.

"We don't believe a solution will be found this year," he said. "Israel's unreasonable demands and the compromises it insists upon are interfering with the ability of the parties to make progress."

Harish will intervene to limit strike's effect on bread supply

JOSE ROSENFELD

INDUSTRY and Trade Minister Micha Harish will intervene tomorrow to limit disruptions to the supply of bread, should the flour mill workers and owners fail to resolve their differences today, government sources said last night.

Harish called on the sides to immediately engage in negotiations and for the workers to stop their strike in order to allow for serious negotiations.

He warned the sides against creating a situation that will lead to the irregular supply of bread.

"The government cannot allow the interference with the supply of such a basic good. If reason will fail to prevail among the flour mill owners and the workers, the government will be forced to choose a policy which will open flour imports, which will free the country's citizens from their dependence on the local suppliers," said Harish.

He noted that even with the implementation of a new policy, the supply of bread may be disrupted for a short time, since the new arrangement will take some time to organize.

For this reason, the government empowered Harish to declare a state of emergency and issue back to work orders in order to limit to a minimum the damage from the strike.

Senate passes foreign aid bill - Palestinians receive aid

HILLEL KUTTLER

WASHINGTON

THE Senate on Friday overwhelmingly passed the 1995 foreign aid bill that for the first time includes funds for the Palestinians.

The bill earmarked \$3 billion for Israel and \$2.1 billion for Egypt. The Palestinians will receive about \$80 million, the first US payment of its five-year, \$500 million pledge to the autonomous areas.

Passed by an 84-9 vote, the bill also included an amendment that essentially forewarns the administration against actions that could compromise Israel's claim over a united Jerusalem.

The amendment, sponsored by Jesse Helms (R-North Carolina) and Daniel Patrick Moynihan (D-New York), prevents the use of US funds to establish an office in Jerusalem to deal with American relations with the Palestinian Authority.

It also prohibits US government

officials from conducting meetings in Jerusalem on Gaza/Jericho matters with PA officials.

The American Israel Public Affairs Committee (AIPAC) lobbying group praised the passage of the foreign aid allocation to Israel, as well as the Helms-Moynihan amendment.

"We deeply appreciate, and worked actively for passage of, this timely amendment, which strengthens Jerusalem's status as Israel's eternal, undivided capital," said the organization's president Steve Grossman. "This is a consensus issue, and we will continue to support legislative efforts that strengthen US policy on this issue."

The amendments were not contained in the recently passed House of Representatives version of the bill. The two bills will be reconciled and passed into law by early August, Capitol Hill sources say.

Settlements bordering Gaza demand 'confrontation line' status and aid

AMIR ROZENBLIT

THIS head of the Eshkol Regional Council, which borders the Gaza Strip, has asked Finance Minister Avraham Shohat and Agriculture Minister Ya'acov Tsur to help obtain "confrontation line" status for the settlements in his region.

"The security records of our settlements record incidents every night," council head Avraham Dagan told the ministers during a recent tour of the region.

"Every settlement along the border has been penetrated by terrorists and thieves. Now that autonomy is in

effect and a security fence is being erected, the Gaza border has become a real border. The settlements are bearing a heavy security burden on a regular basis; when going to the more distant fields, people carry weapons and there is a fear of leaving one's home at night. Today, we are bearing the heaviest security burden in the country."

He added that this security burden has compounded the financial difficulties the region, along with most other farming areas, has been experiencing over the past several years.

The funeral of
MARCIA MENDELOWITZ
will take place today, July 17, at 1 p.m. at the new Ra'anana cemetery.

DEPARTURES

World Wizo President Raya Jaglom, for Geneva.

Aristide tells Haitians he will return soon

ANDREW SELSKY
PORT-AU-PRINCE

OUSTED President Jean-Bertrand Aristide told his countrymen late Friday that the day of his return is close at hand.

"I am returning to reinstate security for all Haitians to live in peace," Aristide said in a pre-recorded speech.

He didn't say how he would return, but Washington has not ruled out an invasion to oust Haiti's army rulers and restore Aristide, Haiti's first freely elected leader.

Aristide's speech stressed reconciliation and he pledged not to seek vengeance against those who deposed him in 1991. "Soldiers you have nothing to worry about," he said.

The 50-minute radio speech was broadcast over Haiti by two US military planes flying around the military-ruled Caribbean nation.

The broadcast, which began at 6:30 p.m., also included 10 minutes of Haitian music.

Despite the threat of an American invasion, the US Embassy appeared to be the only mission in Port-au-Prince preparing for possible war.

Two Marines armed with automatic rifles crouched behind sandbags on the roof of the embassy, which is ringed by a 10-foot (three meter) concrete wall topped in places by recently installed razor wire.

Many Haitians said they felt Washington was just saber rattling and not planning an attack, despite the 2,860 Marines aboard warships off Haiti.

"I don't think they're going to invade. It's too quiet here," said a Haitian business executive, reflecting a widely felt sentiment. He asked that his name not be used.

No increase in Haitian forces was visible in the capital. Sandbags were stacked just two feet high on some streets leading to army headquarters and the presidential palace on a downtown square, guarded by a few soldiers.

The Red Cross set up two feeding centers north of Goma, and the line quickly grew kilometers long. Officials said the sites were chosen to keep the refugees moving out of the city to avoid trouble with local residents.

The trip proved to be exhausting for a few people, whose corpses lay on the ground.

"When we arrived we found nothing to eat, nowhere to stay," one man said. "Everything is crowded. Every square meter is occupied by refugees who arrived before."

Leaders of the Hutu interim government fled Gisenyi, their stronghold across the border from Goma, as Tutsi-dominated rebels closed on the city, pursuing what remained of the government army in full retreat.

Busloads of Rwandan government soldiers scurried into Zaire. About 350 were housed at one military barracks.

The United States cut diplomatic ties Friday with the Hutu government, blamed by President Clinton for supporting "genocidal massacres." The Embassy of Rwanda was ordered closed and its personnel were ordered to leave the United States within five working days.

In Rwanda, the columns of Hutus waiting to pass through the three border crossings into Zaire stretched for kilometers.

The Hutus fear the rebels want to avenge widespread massacres of minority Tutsis by extremist supporters of Rwanda's Hutu-dominated government. The Hutu militias have been blamed for most of the estimated 200,000 to 500,000 deaths in the past three months in the small, central African nation.

No evidence of reprisals has surfaced.

Relief officials have already seen signs of disease in the camps, where food, water and shelter are rare commodities.

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seeking shade from the scorching sun.

Two US aircraft from Eglin Air Force Base in northwest Florida circled Haiti Friday evening and beamed the speech by Aristide for the inaugural broadcast of Radio Democracy.

The airborne broadcasts will "make sure the Haitian people know they have not been abandoned by the international community (and) that we are very concerned with their suffering by the military's brutal misrule," William H. Gray III, President Clinton's special adviser on Haiti, said in Washington.

Radio Democracy is funded by the United States and Aristide's exiled government, and US officials help write material for broadcast, said embassy spokesman Stanley Schragger. US officials will also speak to Haitians on the station, which will broadcast daily.

Haiti's military rulers will consider the broadcasts "a threat to their illegitimate (government)," Schragger suggested.

Aristide, Haiti's first freely elected president, was ousted in a military coup in 1991 and lives in exile in Washington.

The US Navy has dispatched 16 ships carrying about 4,700 sailors and the Marines off Haiti. They are in addition to 15 US Coast Guard cutters patrolling for refugees escaping on small boats.

The USS Mount Whitney, an amphibious vessel that can serve as a command center for military action, was en route to the region.

In New York, UN Secretary-General Boutros Boutros-Ghali on Friday said the situation in Haiti has "deteriorated to an intolerable extent." His comment in a report he issued outlining options for a broader international presence.

It projected that it would take 15,600 personnel, including combat troops, to help restore democracy in Haiti once the military government departs. His report didn't mention removal of the army rulers through a possible US invasion.

Refugees continue to flee repression and poverty aboard rickety boats. The US Coast Guard intercepted 60 Haitians on Friday morning and has picked up more than 3,000 Haitians fleeing their country in the past week.

They are given the choice of being returned to Haiti or taken to "safe havens." Washington is setting up in several Caribbean countries.

Schragger, meanwhile, said US Embassy investigators had determined that 12 Haitian men, whose newly buried bodies were found Tuesday, had been shot by "local security or local security-related groups."

No motive for the killings had been established, he said.

About 100 international human rights observers were kicked out of Haiti on Wednesday by the government, leading to fears that summary executions and other abuses would increase.

There has been no indication that has occurred, Schragger said. US diplomats would investigate reports of violations, traveling in groups for their protection.

But he said only up to 30 officials could be available for such work on a rotation basis, and that the US Embassy was considering cutting its staff.

The Organization of American States announced from Washington that the joint OAS-UN civilian mission to Haiti will fly from the French Caribbean island of Guadeloupe to the Dominican Republic yesterday to resume monitoring rights violations in neighboring Haiti. However, it wasn't clear how they would operate from across the border.

Haiti's economy has been wrecked by a UN oil and trade embargo aimed at forcing the army from power. It has hit Haiti's poor the hardest.

In Miami, the founder of a US relief organization said Friday as many as 1,000 children a month are dying of hunger in Haiti.

"People are so desperate to save their babies from starving to death that they are walking into hospitals with them and just leaving them," said Larry Jones, founder of the Oklahoma City-based Feed The Children.

"People leave them there hoping that someone will have mercy on them and take them home and feed them, but no one does because they can't feed their own children," Jones said. (AP)

UN, Rwandan military meet for peace talks

GOMA, Zaire (AP) - UN officials meet yesterday with Rwandan military leaders seeking a cease-fire and possibly an end to the fear that is driving hundreds of thousands of Hutu refugees into Zaire.

Rebel military leader Gen. Paul Kagame indicated that he is ready to stop fighting, according to the UN envoy who met with him.

"Gen. Kagame hopes this cease-fire will reverse the refugee flow and avert the coming humanitarian aid crisis," UN envoy Shaharyar Khan said after the meeting.

A radio broadcast, apparently by the rebels and monitored by the BBC, appealed to refugees to return to an area they control, guaranteeing safety.

As yesterday's talks got under way, the United Nations began airlifting essential supplies to the more than 500,000 Hutu refugees who have crossed the border seeking safety in Zaire.

The first items to be flown to the legions of people fleeing for themselves under an open sky will be water cans and plastic sheeting, said Paul Mountz, a spokesman for the UN High Commission on Refugees in Goma.

UN officials made a helicopter survey of the Goma area yesterday and predicted the number of refugees could reach 850,000.

With crossing gates into Zaire thrown open, it was impossible to count how many Hutu refugees had arrived in two days. But it likely was well over 500,000, making it one of the largest flights in history.

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European Union elects Jacques Santer to top post

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The 12-nation European Union, suggesting that Santer would continue the work of outgoing president Jacques Delors, but "without the polemic, conflict or charisma."

Such charity was conspicuously absent in most comment about the appointment, which EU leaders made at an emergency summit meeting in Brussels on Friday.

Santer was widely portrayed as a low common denominator choice, a quick fix by the Union following Britain's veto of the rest of the bloc's first choice, Belgian Prime Minister Jean-Luc Dehaene, last month.

"L'Europe s'enterne," said the Belgian daily *Vers L'Avenir*. It was a French play on words with Santer's name that translates as "Europe buries itself."

Britain's *Guardian* newspaper said that at worst the appointment meant hanging "a notice on the Commission's door proclaiming: Out to lunch."

But ironically the same paper was among the more supportive

EU's executive, the soon to be replaced 12-nation group's chief of regulation and enforcement.

He is due to appear before the assembly next Thursday at its session in Strasbourg, France. Afterwards, Euro-deputies were to have a non-binding vote of confidence on the appointment.

It is highly unlikely that the vote will go against Santer. Both major political groups, the Socialists and the Christian Democrats, have indicated they will back him.

Santer has years of experience in EU matters and was heavily involved in negotiations for two of the Union's major projects of the last decade, the creation of a single market and the Maastricht Treaty on political and monetary union.

Santer is well aware of the criticism aimed at him as a compromise appointment, the first choice of no one.

"I ask you to judge me on my actions, which will translate my commitment to Europe, and not in advance," he said at a news conference after the appointment had been made.

German Chancellor Helmut Kohl echoed the request.

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Nottingham police find abducted baby Abbie safe and well

SHAWN POGATCHNIK
LONDON

A newborn baby snatched from a hospital was returned to her grateful mother's arms yesterday, ending a 15-day ordeal for the parents of Abbie Humphries.

Abbie's fate has captivated Britain since a woman disguised as a nurse took the child from her unwitting father in the pediatric ward of Queen's Medical Center in Nottingham, central England. The Humphries' baby was just 4 hours old when taken.

Video surveillance cameras captured the woman in a hospital corridor as she apparently carried away Abbie, and Britain's national newspapers plastered police composite "photofits" of the suspect on their front pages.

But the media blitz had produced only a chain of false leads and bogus callers until yesterday, when police officers raided a tidy red-brick house within two kms of the hospital about 1 a.m.

They found the baby unharmed and asleep in an upstairs room. A couple and another woman in the house were arrested and being questioned by detectives.

Superintendent Harry Shepherd said the break in the investigation came after a phoned tip-off "out of the blue" from a member of the public, but he declined to be more specific.

Police and a social worker took Abbie to the hospital where she was declared in good health. Roger and Karen Humphries were awoken at their home, cautioned that the child might not be Abbie, and driven to the hospital.

There the couple instantly confirmed that the infant, with blond hair and eyelashes, was their Abbie.

Later the Humphries presented their child to a packed roomful of more than 200 journalists at a Nottingham hotel.

Jubilant and relieved, Karen Humphries, 32, said the first moments of her reunion with Abbie were "just wonderful."

As her husband put his arm around mother and child, she thanked the police and the hundreds of citizens who phoned with tips on Abbie's whereabouts. "and especially to the lady who actually phoned in with the correct information."

Police presented the family with a teddy bear, while the hospital offered a bouquet of flowers.

Abbie appeared pretty unimpressed by the

adoration. She scowled and yawned throughout, and let out a howl as her mother held her up to a blinding battery of clicking cameras. Earlier, hospital workers cried and hugged each other as word spread of Abbie's safe return.

"I whooped for joy when I heard the news. ... It has been like a cloud hanging over everyone's head," said nurse Maureen Bramley. "We all feel really, really happy now. We have been celebrating ever since we heard with lots and lots of cups of tea."

The abductor had taken the baby from Roger Humphries on July 1 claiming that Abbie was supposed to take a hearing test. Karen Humphries, in a nearby bathroom and a nurse herself, knew immediately that something was wrong because Abbie was too young to take a hearing test.

Residents of Wollaton, the leafy middle-class community where Abbie was found, said they couldn't believe they had kidnappers in their midst.

Dennis Savage, landlord of the Wollaton Arms pub, said it is "the sort of place where people know one another. You would have expected that a new baby would have been noticed." (AP)



Roger and Karen Humphries pose for photographers with their two-week-old baby daughter, Abbie, at the Nottingham hospital where she was abducted two weeks ago, after being reunited with her there yesterday. (Reuters)

Serbs give Bosnian peace plan cool reception

SARAJEVO (Reuters) - Bosnia's Serbs, facing a Tuesday deadline, signalled yesterday they were finding it difficult to back the latest international peace plan.

Turkish President Suleyman Demirel, on a visit to former Yugoslavia, said the Serbs faced grave consequences if they refused to accept the plan drawn up by the United States, Russia, Britain, France and Germany.

A senior Bosnian Serb official, Momcilo Krajisnik, indicated his self-styled republic's assembly would have serious difficulties in accepting the plan unconditionally as demanded by the "contact group" set up by the major powers.

Krajisnik, speaker of the Bosnian Serb assembly, said: "It will be very difficult to decide whether to accept or reject the peace plan. Not all elements of the contact group's plan have been finalised and clearly defined."

"If the plan is rejected, that will be based on sound arguments and our wish to end the war and have a

quality division of Bosnia," he was quoted as saying by the private France Press news agency.

The contact group has given the rival factions until Tuesday to give a definitive response to the peace plan.

The Bosnian Serb assembly and the Moslem-Croat joint parliament both meet tomorrow in Pale and Sarajevo, respectively. The Moslems and Croats have already said they will accept, albeit grudgingly.

In Zagreb, United Nations and NATO commanders met to assess their options if the plan is rejected and the war goes on.

US Admiral Leighton Smith, commander of NATO-Southern Europe, arrived for talks with General Bertrand de Lapresle, UN Protection Force commander in ex-Yugoslavia.

"It is a regular monthly meeting. NATO and the UN have a very close operational relationship. It's also a contingency planning session for implementing a possible peace accord or lack

thereof," UN spokesman Paul Risley said.

The UN in Sarajevo reported a relatively low level of fighting across Bosnia during the night. The UN-controlled airport serving the Moslem stronghold of Tuzla was targeted by four suspected tank shells yesterday morning.

In Sarajevo, United Nations officials expressed concern that Serb rejection of the peace plan could be followed by attacks on peace-keeping troops in Bosnia, most of whom are lightly armed and exposed to retaliation.

UN officials in Sarajevo said they were reviewing contingency plans to deal with everything from hostage-taking of UN personnel to attempts to retrieve weapons from UN collection sites in the area around the capital.

Bosnian Serbs yesterday violated the weapons exclusion zone around Sarajevo by driving a tank out of a UN weapons collection site before returning it 25 minutes later with no clear explanation of what they were doing.

"We appear to be heading down a road that's very unpredictable, but we have contingency plans for everything and we're reviewing them in light of changing circumstances," said a UN military officer in Sarajevo who asked not to be named.

"If the Serbs turn down the (peace) plan we're likely to be challenged around Sarajevo and in the eastern enclaves. Within the limits of our mandate and our resources, we'll be ready."

After NATO aircraft bombed Serb positions around the eastern enclave of Gorazde last April, Serb forces rounded up or blocked a total of about 200 UN personnel in various locations in Bosnia. They were later released.

Even if the plan is accepted by the warring parties, the UN believes it will take two years to implement it.

"If the Bosnian warring factions accept the plan, it will take two years for its implementation," UN special envoy Yasushi Akashi said yesterday.

Italian interior minister threatens to quit unless magistrates' powers restored

ROME (Reuters) - Italy's Interior Minister, Roberto Maroni of the Northern League, threatened to resign yesterday unless Prime Minister Silvio Berlusconi restored magistrates' powers of arrest in graft cases.

Maroni's threat, in an interview for today's edition of the newspaper *L'Unita*, sharpened a political crisis over a cabinet decree that removes bribery and corruption from a list of offences for which suspects can be held in preventive detention.

The federalist Northern League is the biggest party in parliament and ensures Berlusconi's three-party coalition its majority.

"The decree must be scrapped, or at least radically modified," Maroni told *L'Unita*. "Otherwise I will have to reconsider the possibility of staying at the Interior Ministry. It is a matter of my dignity."

Berlusconi earlier told reporters he was standing fully by the decree and would amend it only in the sense of relaxing powers of preventive detention.

L'Unita made Maroni's interview available to news agencies ahead of publication.

Leading members of the elite

pool of Milan magistrates spearheading investigations into graft scandals resigned yesterday to protest against the new decree curbing their powers of arrest.

The magistrates, who have become folk heroes for bringing down corrupt politicians, said they were quitting, moments after Berlusconi pledged to ease further the rules of detention in graft cases.

The Italian news agency ANSA said the magistrates, including the charismatic Antonio Di Pietro, verbally told Milan chief prosecutor Francesco Saverio Borrelli, who heads the Mani Pulite (Clean Hands) investigation team, they were opting out.

The magistrates' move was a hardening of their position as they had already asked to be transferred to other jobs.

Berlusconi said he regretted their decision.

"I don't think it's right to come to the point of handing in a resignation," the media magnate told a news conference in the Adriatic port of Trieste where he is taking part in a summit of the 10-nation Central European Initiative.

Among others who quit were Antonio Di Pietro, Piercamillo Da-

vigo, Gherardo Colombo, Francesco Greco and Elio Ramondini.

Earlier yesterday Berlusconi sharpened battle lines with the magistrates and his own coalition partners with a pledge to speed the cabinet measure to allow more suspects to leave jail in favour of house arrest.

"I will be the first to ask for amendments - not aimed at restricting the granting of liberty but at increasing it," Berlusconi said.

"No citizen should be imprisoned without first being convicted. We cannot tolerate that people, not in jail for months on end. We must be guided by the polar star that is the right to liberty," he told reporters.

The decree announced on Wednesday prohibits magistrates from applying preventive detention in jail in cases of bribery and corruption - a tool liberally applied in the two-year judicial assault on Italy's Tangentopoli (Bribeville) scandal.

Despite the decree, investigations continued with the arrest of Franco Ambrosio, president of Italian cereals company Italgrani SpA as part of investigation into illicit use of European Union funds for grain exports, judicial sources said.

Divided right-wingers keep French leftist hopes alive

PARIS (AP) - On a popular TV puppet show, President Francois Mitterrand leads through photos of Socialists who might succeed him, growing increasingly exasperated.

Each photo fades into a vignette. One candidate brags about settling a cucumber dispute. Another tries to explain his scandals. One delivers a rambling speech.

Behind the jokes about next spring's presidential election is a high-stakes battle over who will shepherd France into the next century and determine whether the country remains a key force for European unity.

Recent polls indicate that conservative Premier Edouard Balladur, still coyly undecided, could trounce the left's potential front-runner, Jacques Delors, departing chief executive of the European Union, by a 10-point margin.

But the left hopes that steadily rising unemployment, now at 12.7 percent, could topple Balladur. And the conservatives, increasingly split among rival chiefs, may be their own worst enemy.

"The right will not be able to surmount its divisions," predicted Pascal Perrineau, director of a think tank at the Institute of Political Studies, France's top political science school.

Rumormongers toy with the idea of Mitterrand running for a third term, but few take that scenario seriously.

Mitterrand is 77 and weakened by prostate cancer, forced to share power with Balladur, 65.

While a Socialist president is likely to be more pro-European and pro-American, a conservative could slow attempts to empower

the unified-Europe advocates at EU headquarters and be more independent in foreign policy.

For example, right-wingers mindful that France is the world's fourth-biggest exporter want the EU embargo lifted on Iraq, once a major customer. They also want to end Mitterrand's moratorium on nuclear arms tests.

A conservative victory would reaffirm Balladur's efforts to sell off state-owned companies, curb immigration and cut spending.

Ex-Premier Jacques Chirac, 62, mayor of Paris, was seen as the conservatives' presidential front-runner until a year ago. He engineered Balladur's appointment as a caretaker premier to stay clear of the messy day-to-day governing that complicated his 1988 presidential bid.

But with Balladur surprisingly popular, Chirac has criticized some of his policies.

Despite the infighting, Balladur or Chirac could benefit from a leadership void on the left.

Shattered in the 1993 legislative election, the Socialists reeled again last month when they won only 14.5 percent support in the European Parliament election. That prompted moderate former premier Michel Rocard's ouster as party chief.

The colorful Bernard Tapie, whose ticket captured 12 percent of the European vote, is a self-made millionaire who proposed outlawing unemployment among youth. But Tapie was arrested last month on fraud and tax evasion charges.

Tapie disavows presidential aspirations, but sees himself as a kingmaker.

Cyprus remembers coup anniversary

NICOSIA (AP) - Greek Cypriots marked this weekend's 20th anniversary of the coup that prompted the Turkish invasion and partition of Cyprus with candles for the plotters and calls for the island's reunification.

President Glafcos Clerides, the Greek Cypriot leader, called on the UN secretary-general to conduct "an in-depth and extensive review of new methods for effectively tackling the Cyprus problem."

In an address marking the twin anniversaries, he added that a settlement "should rid the island of the presence of foreign troops and settlers, as envisaged by the UN resolutions."

A series of events throughout the day gave vent to the Greek Cypriots' feelings of hatred for the plotters and anger that 20 years later, the northern third of the island remains under Turkish occupation.

Air-raid sirens wailed at 8:20 a.m. (0520 GMT) to mark the hour on July 15, 1974, when tanks attacked the presidential palace in Nicosia forcing the president, Archbishop Makarios, to flee abroad.

Greek Cypriots thronged the main cemetery of the capital for a memorial service for the thousands who died in "the twin black tragedies" - the coup and the invasion that came five days later.

Huge banners in the main square of the capital, Nicosia, and in other Greek Cypriot areas denounced the coup, which was mounted by officers of the military junta ruling Greece at the time and by local right-wing supporters of union with Greece.

Passersby stopped to sign an appeal to the United Nations for the implementation of Security Council resolutions ignored by Turkey for 20 years. These demand the withdrawal of the estimated 35,000 Turkish troops and 50,000 settlers from mainland Turkey and the return of Greek Cypriots who fled after the invasion.

Turkey invaded and occupied the northern third of the island in the wake of the coup, ostensibly to protect the Turkish Cypriot minority.

Two decades later, the island remains divided. About 575,000 Greek Cypriots live south of the dividing line that runs through the center of Nicosia.

TV station apologizes for wrong O.J. story

LOS ANGELES (AP) - A local TV station apologized and retracted its report that a prosecutor arrived at O.J. Simpson's estate before a search warrant was issued.

"We want to apologize," KCBS-TV's Harvey Levin said Friday in a statement replayed on the CBS Evening News. "We now have reason to believe that we made a mistake in one of our reports."

If the prosecutor had been present before the warrant was issued, it could help the defense show that police knowingly seized evidence illegally and that such evidence should be excluded from trial. The search turned up bloodstains and a bloody glove.

The KCBS report earlier this week was based on a videotape of Deputy District Attorney Marcia Clark at Simpson's mansion on June 13.

The station said the tape was automatically stamped 10:28. The warrant was issued at 10:45 a.m. the same day, a day after

Simpson's ex-wife Nicole Brown Simpson and her friend Ronald Goldman were stabbed to death outside Ms. Simpson's condo. Simpson, 47, has pleaded innocent to two charges of first-degree murder.

On Friday, KCBS said it did not know if the time stamped was a.m. or p.m., and that the stamp might indicate the time the video was transmitted to the station.

The District Attorney's Office, which had denied the report of a premature search, thanked the station for its "responsible action."

Meanwhile, prosecutors were given until July 29 to decide whether to charge Al Cowlings with helping his friend flee during their 60-mile (100-km) nationally televised freeway ride June 17.

Accompanied by a phalanx of police cars, Cowlings drove his white Ford Bronco as his longtime friend sat in the back, reportedly with a gun to his own head. Finally, Cowlings pulled into the driveway of Simpson's house and both surrendered.

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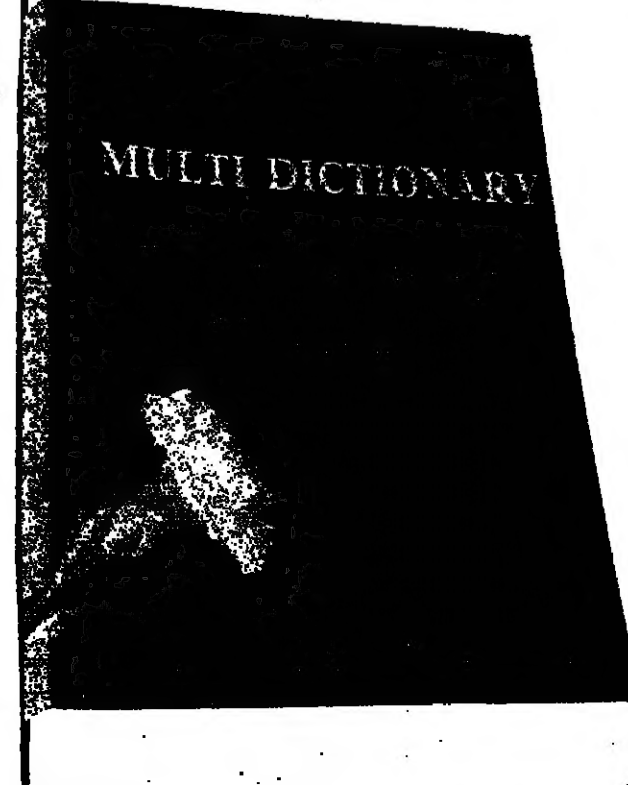
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Observing a very long-distance collision course

JUDY SIEGEL-ITZKOVICH

IT'S only a medium-sized telescope, but through it astronomers are watching an event occurring for the first time in recorded history. 860 million km. away. Four meters long with a lens only 1 m. in diameter, the telescope, located 6 km. west of Mitzpe Ramon, is enabling Israeli astronomers to watch the collision between the Shoemaker-Levy 9 Comet and the planet Jupiter.

The largest chunk of the comet is due to hit Jupiter on Wednesday, July 20 – the 25th anniversary of man's first landing on the moon. Some haredim, including Lubavitch hassidim, claim the crash of the comet presages the arrival of the Messiah as "predicted" in the mystical work the Zohar.

Dr. Noah Brosh, a senior Tel Aviv University astronomer and research associate, discounts the messianic connotations of the event, but he is nevertheless very excited by it. Brosh and a handful of colleagues are now holed up at the university's Wise Observatory in the middle of the Negev, focusing their telescope on the largest planet in the solar system.

Brosh notes that in the US and Europe, there are much larger telescopes, about eight meters in diameter and costing upwards of \$5 million. But the Middle East turns out to be an excellent spot for viewing the effects of the collision, and there are few if any comparable telescopes in this region.

The crash of the largest comet fragment on Wednesday will occur when it's daytime in the US but nighttime here," Brosh explains. "So we will get a much better look."

The comet, an orbiting celestial object comprised mainly of ice and frozen gases, was discovered

by Carolyn and Eugene Shoemaker and their colleague David Levy from California's Mt. Palomar Observatory on March 23, 1993. Although the three astronomy fans have observed numerous comets, this one, named for them, is special. The Shoemaker-Levy 9 Comet is "squashed," meaning it has broken into 21 pieces that – since last night – are crashing into the Jovian atmosphere at a speed of 60 km. per second and with the explosive force of millions of nuclear bombs.

Since such an event is not known to have happened for some 3,000 years, astronomers are uncharacteristically excited. Dr. Jim Scotti, an astronomer from the department of planetary sciences of the University of Arizona – who confirmed the existence of Shoemaker-Levy 9 – has come here specially to watch the event. "He brought along an unusual camera that he fitted on one end of our telescope. The computerized device has a piece of metal that blocks out Jupiter's unwanted light and allows us to see its reflection off Jupiter's moons. This will help us assess the impact of the comet," Brosh explains. A video camera will be connected to preserve the images.

Brosh notes that Jupiter has a mass 300 times larger than Earth's. It rotates three times faster than earth, so its "day" is only about 10 hours long. Sixteen moons revolve around Jupiter; four of them were discovered by Galileo in 1610.

Although Shoemaker-Levy 9 was discovered only 16 months ago, it was "captured" by Jupiter's gravitational pull in the Seventies. According to calculations, the comet reached a distance of 50,000 km. from the planet in 1972 and then shattered a year later. Each of the fragments, whose tra-



The Galileo spaceship may get a good look at Wednesday's collision on Jupiter.

(Robert Cohen/AGIP)

jectory has been calculated exactly, will collide with Jupiter at a different time during the next six days.

But unfortunately, says Brosh, it will happen on the dark side of Jupiter, as the comet comes from the direction opposite the sun.

Thus observers will be able to see the effects only indirectly, when that side rotates towards Earth 10 minutes later.

"We don't know exactly what we will see," says Brosh. "There were collisions at some time between our moon and comets; the

face of the moon shows chains of craters as evidence. It's a very definite mark, like the trail of bullets from a machine gun. Comets have also collided with the sun, and comets have broken apart. But this is the first time that comets have disintegrated and collided

with a planet since the invention of the telescope over 300 years ago."

Israelis who decide to stay up all night and look for fireworks from Jupiter will be disappointed, says Brosh. "One won't be able to see anything with naked eye. No colli-

sion is directly visible. Even with our telescope, we won't be able to see a crater. Jupiter doesn't have a visible surface – only an upper atmosphere. The impact of the fragments will probably disturb the pattern of Jovian clouds. The Hubble space telescope may get a better look, but its location 550 km. above Earth won't make much of a difference." The Galileo and Voyager 2 spacecraft, which are beyond Jupiter, should get quite a good view. The comet pieces are each one to three kilometers in diameter.

"They will pack a big punch, they are still relatively tiny. If the comet is made of fluffy material, it may pulverize and dissipate as ring of dust."

Brosh hopes the collision will produce a plume of gas and comet debris above the planet. There may be an explosion producing a flash of light. "And, just possibly, the comet may be made of anti-matter instead of matter. Anti-matter is produced on earth in nuclear accelerators, but it doesn't last long. It's probably not the case, but if Shoemaker-Levy is made of anti-matter, it would make a really big bang, but certainly nothing dangerous to Jupiter or to us."

In any case, whether the results of the collisions will be dramatic or even disappointing, Brosh maintains that it will increase astronomers' knowledge, especially of the Jovian atmosphere and the effects of collisions of celestial bodies.

"It is believed that the dinosaurs were wiped out 65 million years ago by an asteroid [a large meteoroid made of metal or rock] 10-km. in diameter that hit the Gulf of Mexico. This impact would have raised such a cloud of rock and dust that the sun's rays were blocked out, killing vegetation and these animals that depended on it for survival."

Say goodbye to the university switchboard

NEW WORLDS

JUDY SIEGEL-ITZKOVICH

DEALING with university bureaucracy is often time-consuming and frustrating for students and applicants, but now a new system introduced by Tel Aviv University should take a lot of the pain out of making routine telephone enquiries. From the start of the fall semester, the university will be using computerized voice mail to enable callers to receive updated general and personal information without having to go through countless switchboards.

The system was established by TAU's information systems branch and the registration center in cooperation with Gamma Communications. Asher Rothkoff, the head of information systems, says that applicants to the university will be able to call a number, and then press a personal code to find out whether they have been accepted on a degree course or to receive their matriculation and psychometric scores.

The service, which operates 24 hours a day over 16 phone lines, also provides general information about tuition and the various university courses.

SPELL IT RITE

Parents of children in elementary school often have difficulty helping their youngsters with spelling, especially those words with similar-sounding Hebrew letters. Now a Jerusalem software company has produced a program, that teaches children the secrets of correct Hebrew spelling.

Called *Sodot Hakiv* ("Secrets of Spelling"), the NIS 145 program takes up six megabytes of memory. It requires a hard disk and color screen, and a voice card is recommended. It is available

only by phone from Etz Computers, 02-415243.

The program includes a number of lessons on groups of problematic words, as well as spelling principles and exceptions. Did you know, for instance, that all Hebrew words connected with water, like *tal, tips, matar, tevel, teva* and *shaf* are spelled with a *tet* and not a *tav*? The user puts together puzzles, and is rewarded for correct answers with musical and graphic elements.

MANY-FACED EXHIBITION
Imagine Ronald Reagan's hair with Oprah Winfrey's eyes, Andy Warhol's nose and the smile of Marilyn Monroe? That's one of the unusual facial combinations in the "Exhibit of Faces," due to open at Jerusalem's Bloomfield Science Museum on July 20.

"It's an interactive exhibit in which the visitor experiments with his own face," says museum director Prof. Peter Hillman. Hillman is a renowned neurobiologist and expert in the mechanism of sight.

To prove that the face is asymmetrical, a video camera photographs visitors' faces then switches the right and left sides to produce an unfamiliar image. Other games show the effect of light and shadow on the identification of faces, and visitors are asked to identify strangers they see for a moment, pick out various human emotions from photos and prepare Identikit-like those used by the police.

The exhibit was first shown at the San Diego University science museum six years ago. Since then, it has traveled throughout the US and Europe. "The exhibit derives its content from anthropology and physiology and presents it in a suc-



One part of the Bloomfield Science Museum's 'Exhibit of Faces' lets visitors pick out various emotions.

cessful blend of originality, modern technology and art," says San Diego museum director Prof. Elsa Feher.

GENIUSES IN REHOBOT

A Chinese boy who divides his weekends between physics and Ping-Pong and the son of a Polish diplomat who is fascinated by gene replacement are among the 77 talented teenagers from 20 countries participating in this year's Bessie Lawrence International Summer Science Institute, which opened last week at the Weizmann Institute of Science in Rehovot.

Yu Li of Beijing and Krzysztof Zelazowski from Warsaw are the

first representatives of their respective countries to participate in the program. Fourteen of the 22 American pupils at the institute were semifinalists or finalists in the prestigious Westinghouse Talent Search, a US competition for young scientists. One is Jessica Bagger of East Williston, New York, who designed a method for measuring color perception and proved that the human eye perceives red light quicker than green or blue.

The teenagers are here for a month during which time they will conduct intensive laboratory research under the guidance of institute scientists.

Dreams don't always come true

DREAMING about being seriously ill makes many people worry that there might be something behind the dreams.

But there is no reason to worry.

Israeli sleep researchers have found there is little or no "prognostic" value in dreams.

Writing in the latest issue of *Harefuah*, the journal of the Israel Medical Association, Prof. Peretz Lavie of the Haifa Technion sleep lab notes that in many cases the dreamer is more likely to forget details of his dreams than to remember them.

The sleep lab recently completed a study of patients suffering from sleep apnea (in which they stop breathing for 20 to 60 seconds several or even dozens of times each night).

These episodes during sleep cause definite physiological changes, including jerking movements, reduced oxygenation of arterial blood and loss of muscle tone. But surprisingly, of those patients aroused after a dream episode, none recalled dreaming about any of these traumatic symptoms.

Based on this and foreign studies, Lavie says the dream mechanism is "apathetic" to physical stimulation that reaches the brain during REM (rapid-eye-movement, or dreaming) sleep.

Previous research found that Holocaust survivors (especially those who adapt well to life) and soldiers who suffered from post-traumatic stress disorder tend to have fewer dreams than others. This is apparently adaptive behavior, says Lavie – their subconscious prevents traumatic events from entering their dreams, or at least from being remembered.

STENTS MOVE TO LUNGS
Stents – tiny cylindrical metallic supports – have been used for several years to keep coronary arteries from collapsing after catheter-

HEALTH SCAN

POST HEALTH REPORTER

ization. Now a variation on these implants is being used to open narrow bronchial tubes in the lungs.

The lung unit at Hadassah-University Hospital in Jerusalem's Ein Kerem recently introduced spiral stents – the first of their kind to be used here – for patients suffering from narrow, weak-walled airways in the lungs.

Scarring, tumors or chronic inflammation (as in asthma) can cause these airways to close, creating life-threatening conditions.

A man who previously underwent a lung transplant was admitted after the connecting point between his old lung and new lung constricted. Dr. Mordechai Kremer and his Hadassah team inserted a catheter with a contracted stent.

When it reached the right place (they viewed the procedure via videocamera), they freed the two-centimeter spiral, which expanded to five times its length and opened the airway. The patient felt fine after the treatment and went home.

Kremer noted that until this innovation, patients with such problems had to undergo major respiratory surgery. While the bronchial stent doesn't of course cure lung cancer, it significantly eases the breathing of patients with this condition.

NON-RECURRING HERNIA

A Canadian technique used at Laniado Hospital for repairing inguinal hernias has been found to result in a much lower recurrence rate than conventional surgical techniques used here.

Senior surgeon Dr. Ya'akov Ulano of the Netanya hospital reported at a recent medical symposium that the "Shouldice repair"

technique resulted in only 1.5 percent recurrence, a fraction of those that follow conventional surgery.

Ulano, who studied the technique at a famous Canadian surgical center that specializes in hernia repair, performed half of the 200 Shouldice repair procedures on an ambulatory basis, sending patients home a few hours after surgery. Because only local anesthesia is used, over 95 percent of the patients had no complications.

PLAIN SOAP AND WATER
Researchers in Brazil have discovered a new treatment for elephantiasis – soap and water. The World Health Organization has reported that the tropical disease, believed to be caused by a parasitic worm, is in fact due to a secondary infection from common bacteria.

According to Reuter, about a million people around the world are affected by the disease, which causes severe swelling of legs and genitals.

New research by Dr. Gerusa Dreyer of Brazil found that penicillin helps control the disease, but since the antibiotic is unavailable in remote areas, she decided to look for something more common and just as effective. She discovered that careful cleaning of cuts and strict hygiene could reverse the swelling to a manageable level.

She advised rural people already infected to examine themselves daily for cuts and to clean carefully between the toes – this was found to greatly reduce the worst effects of elephantiasis.

WHO officials reacted with much excitement. Prof. Barry Bloom, who heads the WHO's special program for tropical-disease research, stressed washing up wasn't a cure but a "vital first step" toward fighting elephantiasis.

Waiting for everyone to catch up to OS/2

ON LINE

DANIEL BAUM

THERE are very few programs written to run specifically on IBM's OS/2 operating system, but the number seems to be growing, and I hope to write about some in future. But the system is provided with a few "applets" (little programs) which, frankly, are pretty pathetic.

There is one reasonably serious graph-making program by Micrographix, a company which specializes in graphics programs. Even with this program, though, you can't help feeling that the main reason it was included was so people would read the integral advertising for the company's other OS/2 programs.

OS/2 is, however, a superb vehicle on which to run DOS and Windows programs. It is rock-steady, with the operating system protected from software crashes during individual tasks. In other words, while any individual program may crash, this cannot crash the operating system itself.

This isn't mere boasting from IBM – it really works. The DOS-Windows combination, which doesn't use the 80386-protected mode to the same extent as OS/2, is always vulnerable to crashes during individual applications.

In use, the desktop is attractive but some of the graphics are a bit crude. You can change the colors and fonts in any window, and change the icons – symbols – which represent programs. However, no icons are provided with the basic package; you are expected to create your own with a remarkably primitive icon-editing program.

You can change the name of any icon by

pressing "alt" and clicking with the mouse.

Multitasking takes on a new meaning in OS/2. Background applications truly work in the background, which means, for example, that you can dial up an on-line service in a DOS communications program while doing something else in the foreground. All printing is spooled – intercepted by a special program which holds the output in memory and then sends it to the printer while you do something else.

Care needs to be taken, however, with certain menu settings when multitasking DOS programs, to make sure that communications are not interrupted, and that such things as music during games and synthesizer sessions always work at the same speed. The music setting, which makes DOS programs use the computer's hardware timer, does not seem to work very well, as even when it is set the music speed seems to change when one of the background applications is operating.

There was one surprise: A game I had not been able to get to work at all under DOS worked perfectly under OS/2. I'm still looking for an explanation.

IBM will soon be coming out with a couple of new versions of OS/2. One, called Personal OS/2, is specifically designed for low-end personal computers with four megabytes of RAM and smallish hard disks. This is a direct suc-

cessor to a current product, oddly named OS/2 for Windows.

These versions use the Microsoft Windows already installed on your disk, rather than supplying you with a special IBM version of Windows.

A local development team is working on making these versions of OS/2 compatible with the Hebrew Windows. When this happens, then it's bye-bye to DOS, at least for now, though probably not forever. It's now confirmed DOS 6 is the last 16-bit DOS; DOS 7 will definitely be a 32-bit system, as will Windows 4, which is due out at the end of this year.

Windows 4 will actually be an operating system; you will no longer need DOS to access it; it will boot directly, like OS/2. But from what I've read, there is a danger that Microsoft, in its eagerness to attract new users, will hobble Windows 4 by making it overly user-friendly, while removing the more powerful features, such as the Macro Recorder.

This certainly will give the edge to OS/2, which has a complete programming language called REXX and gives you minute access to the most basic features of the operating system.

Another 32-bit DOS that recently entered the fray is Novell-DOS 7, formerly known as DR DOS. This also provides true multitasking, but does not have its own graphical shell.

OS/2 2.1 requires a powerful computer – preferably a fast 486 – and a full installation needs about 40 megabytes of hard disk space and at least six megabytes of RAM.



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A welcome meeting

THE dramatic Washington announcement of an official meeting between Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin and King Hussein in the White House is welcome news. Any open meeting between Israel's premier and an Arab head of state is a step toward the legitimization and recognition of Israel in the Arab world. That the meeting is with Israel's immediate neighbor, a ruler of a country with which Israel shares its longest border, makes the occasion especially significant.

This significance is not diminished by the fact that the meeting is not a result of a spontaneous impulse. Hussein is in dire economic straits. Having supported Saddam Hussein, he has not been able to achieve complete reconciliation with Saudi Arabia and the Gulf emirates, countries which used to provide him with substantial financial aid. The entry of over 250,000 Palestinian refugees from Kuwait has added to the economic burdens of the Hashemite kingdom.

Under these circumstances, the promise of military and economic aid from the US, which will probably include the cancellation of Jordan's debt, is an offer he cannot refuse. An open meeting with Rabin at the White House is a modest price to pay for American aid and goodwill, particularly since his secret meetings with Israeli officials have become common knowledge.

But there are other reasons for Hussein's boldness. He is far less sanguine about a PLO-Hamas state on his border than Israel seems to be. Nor can he be happy to hear American references to Arafat as the new ally of the US in the area. Hussein obviously hopes that the economic relief from the US will make the Palestinians in Jordan - the vast majority of the population - more resistant to the calls of radicalism and fundamentalism that are sure to emanate from the budding Palestinian state to their west.

Euro-media is not amused

THE ways of the European Union are sometimes strange indeed. In its search for a new president of the European Commission, the member states broke up in disarray in Corfu last month because Britain vetoed a candidate considered first-rate by the other 11 states. This week-end, Britain approved without a murmur a compromise candidate for the top job who, unfortunately, is already being derided across Europe as totally unsuitable.

EU leaders, of course, are putting a brave face on the choice of Luxembourg's Prime Minister Jacques Santer as one that satisfies everyone. It could equally be said to satisfy no one, and the European media's attitude has ranged from critical to derisive. There was little doubt that a primary reason for British Prime Minister John Major's rejection of Belgium's Jean-Luc Dehaene was to appease the so-called Euro-skeptics in his domestic ruling party who have been giving the beleaguered prime minister a hard time. Having applauded Major's strong stand on the veto, these now approve Santer as "nothing to worry about" - a strange criterion for the head of one of the world's most advanced and powerful pan-continental unions.

Santer must of course be judged on how he does the job as EU commission president. The outgoing president, Jacques Delors, is undoubtedly a hard act to follow. Santer is a virtually unknown politician from a tiny banker-state of 400,000 people which is rarely taken seriously among the giants of Europe. Delors pushed EU governments

He must also hope that he will not have to do much more than give the Clinton administration - hungry for a foreign policy success - a "photo opportunity" with Rabin and President Clinton. He has repeatedly said that while he has "to look after Jordanian interests" by gaining some stretches of land claimed by Jordan and making water arrangements advantageous to his country, he will not sign a peace treaty with Israel before "others," namely Syria and its satellite Lebanon, join in a comprehensive peace agreement. Shorn of euphemisms, this means that Jordan will only sign on the dotted line and exchange diplomats with Israel when Israel withdraws to the 1949 lines and signs a peace treaty with Syria.

In the past, Hussein's moves toward formalizing a de facto peace with Israel were thwarted by Syria. With Damascus conducting talks with both Israel and the US, and with Israel announcing its readiness to relinquish the Golan, he obviously feels free to pursue normalization if not actual peace. Damascus may no longer scare him the way it did in the mid-1980s. But Syria still poses enough of a threat to keep him from signing a treaty with Israel.

For Israel, the main achievement, in addition to recognition and acceptance, is the potential economic benefit which may result from the free movement of Israelis across the Jordan bridges. Both commerce and tourism should now develop to the benefit of both countries. But the price Israel will have to pay may include allowing tens of thousands displaced Palestinians to settle in Judea and Samaria. It would be wise to condition such a massive population transfer on the economic ability of the Palestinian Authority to absorb the newcomers. Adding more refugee camps on Israel's borders can only encourage irredentism and terrorism.

toward unprecedented integration - including the single market and the 1992 Maastricht Treaty on united foreign and monetary policies. He gathered much criticism for the dizzy pace of his ambitions - especially from Britain, which opted out of his drive to a single European currency by 1999. Yet his worst critics cannot deny Delors' almost superhuman energy and the breadth of his achievements.

Santer will take over as Austria, Finland, Sweden and Norway prepare to join and the EU is starting to consider a joint defense policy and membership for some east European states. The ferocity of the criticism over Santer's appointment is undoubtedly premature and unfair before the man has had a chance to prove himself. A Spanish national newspaper likened Santer's political profile to a flat line on a brain scan, a Belgian commentator said "Europe buries itself" and a British editorial said a notice on the door of the EU commission would read "Out to lunch." Others wondered what Major would call a disaster "if he calls this a victory." Jokes were made about Luxembourg giving the United States advice at the next Group of Seven summit.

Santer himself has accepted the jibes placidly. "I ask you to judge me on my actions, which will translate my commitment to Europe, and not in advance," he said. It's a fair request, and Santer would not be the first European leader to confound his critics. Those deriding him now may have forgotten that the appointment of Delors was greeted with Euro-wide cries of "Jacques who?"



Vatican under threat

KENNETH RAWSON

ISRAEL'S leaders were elated when the Vatican gave up its demand that Jerusalem be internationalized. Why did the Vatican give up this demand?

Why, indeed, did the Vatican demand Jerusalem's internationalization during the UN debate of the Partition Plan in 1947? Its ostensible reason: that all three major faiths be guaranteed free access to their holy places.

From 1948 to 1967, when Jordanian forces occupied Jerusalem, Jewish holy places were desecrated and synagogues destroyed. Further, Jews were denied access to eastern Jerusalem. The Vatican never once raised a cry for internationalization during this time.

In contrast, since acquiring the Old City of Jerusalem in 1967, Israel has guaranteed Christians and Muslims free access to their holy places. And yet the Vatican again began its insistence that Jerusalem be internationalized to provide free access - a privilege the three faiths already enjoy. Obviously, there is a deeper reason for Vatican opposition to Israel's possessing the Old City.

The Roman Catholic Church believes Israel's right to be the Kingdom of God ended forever with the destruction of Jerusalem and the Temple by the Roman Legion in 70 CE. When the Roman Catholic Church grew to world prominence, it claimed to be the rightful heir of the Kingdom of God. Rome, and/or Vatican City, became the "New Jerusalem."

Israel's rebirth challenged Catholicism's "Kingdom of God" theory. Rome's claim to be "the eternal city" was flattened when Jerusalem "the eternal" became the capital of Israel in 1967.

The Jewish community must recognize the real issue of Jerusalem. Jewish leaders feel that if they can convince the Vatican that Israel will always provide free and equal rights to all three faiths, the Vatican will certainly recognize Is-

rael's control over Jerusalem.

If only the issue were that simple.

Why does the Vatican act like a world power, exchanging ambassadors with other nations? No other Christian church claims this prestige. Its only excuse is the claim that it is both the spiritual and temporal Kingdom of God - the New Jerusalem.

Every Catholic prelate in every nation will, covertly and overtly,

Rome's claim to be the 'New Jerusalem' depends on Israel losing possession of its capital

try to influence public opinion against Israel controlling eastern Jerusalem.

If the Vatican doesn't want Israel to have Jerusalem, why did it drop its demand for internationalization?

The answer is plain. The PLO is vigorously opposed to internationalizing Jerusalem because it wants eastern Jerusalem to be the capital of a Palestinian state. The Vatican caved in to PLO, not Israeli, pressure on the internationalization issue.

DON'T BE surprised if the Vatican, overtly or covertly, throws its negotiating weight fully behind Yasser Arafat when eastern Jerusalem's status is deliberated.

In September 1982 and on several other occasions, the Vatican received Yasser Arafat, an international terrorist, with all the honor and dignity accorded a head of

state. It would greatly enhance the Vatican's larger agenda (as the "New Jerusalem," the Kingdom of God) to have the prestige of administering the holy sites of a Palestinian-ruled Jerusalem.

All heads of state are eager to meet with Pope John Paul II. Why? Because he is not just the head of a church; the Vatican is the capital of a church-state government, the Papal State. For centuries, the Papal State has claimed to be the Kingdom of God on earth. Remember when popes crowned and uncrowned kings? Historians refer to that era as the "Dark Ages."

The pope has 1.5 billion followers worldwide. They might differ with him on abortion, birth control and celibacy of the priesthood, but they revere him as head of the Papal State. Through his priesthood, he has an intelligence-gathering network that is the envy of every government. It spans much of the globe. Nations are anxious to exchange ambassadors with the Vatican.

John Paul II plays power politics with a skill that awes world leaders. He and former president Ronald Reagan successfully plotted the downfall of the Communist Empire (*Time*, February 24, 1992).

The pope's ultimate agenda is revealed in the following statement he made on April 21, 1990: "A united Europe is no longer a dream. It is not a utopian memory from the Middle Ages. The events that we are witnessing show that this goal can be reached." The pope wants to revive the Holy Roman Empire of the Middle (Dark) Ages.

It is questionable whether Rabin and company can outmatch the Vatican on Jerusalem.

But whatever the odds, Jerusalem will belong to the Jews forever.

The writer is a minister from Edison, New Jersey.

Female frenzy

JOYCE GABRIEL

YOU should write a column about all the things women have to do before they ever get to the office. One of my co-workers said to me the other day, as she hurried into work after dropping off her daughter at the backup baby-sitter's.

It sounded like a good idea to me. By 9:30 that morning, I had already folded one load of clothes, dried another and gotten another one going in the washing machine. I'd made lunches for two of my sons to take to day camp, emptied the dishwasher, fed the cats, made the bed and driven the boys to camp (30 minutes in the opposite direction from my office). I was already dragging.

But perhaps my experience wasn't definitive, or even representative.

I decided to do an informal survey of some of my colleagues - male and female executives on the middle- to upper-management levels. All the men and all but one of the women I interviewed had young children at home.

If you're a woman, you're probably snickering as you read this. You know how the survey went. But good reporting is the cornerstone of valid analysis, and I went

When the baby-sitter doesn't show up, who stays home?

into the survey with curiosity, without prejudice.

The results were as guessed. It is far easier, it seems, to start the day as a male.

The first woman I spoke to, who is single, had started the day by making her lunch, walking the dog, doing the dishes and making the bed.

The first man I talked to, who has a toddler, told me he had showered and shaved, kissed his wife goodbye and left for work, stopping to drop off a suit at the cleaners' and buy himself a bagel.

The second woman I surveyed has three young children. Her morning had started at six. She arrived at work at 9:30. In the interim, she had dealt with three loads of laundry, emptied the dishwasher and drain board, made breakfast for three kids, packed lunch for the same three kids, taken her shower with her toddler, made the beds, confirmed a baby-sitter for that evening, dropped the kids at the baby-sitter, stopped at the supermarket for diapers, returned a video to the video store, given directions to a would-be nanny who only spoke Spanish and was seeking a job.

THE SECOND man I spoke to had begun the day by showering, shaving, and getting dressed. Then he kissed his kids goodbye and left for work. On some mornings, he makes his daughter's lunch and puts her on the bus.

The third woman I spoke to got up, did a 40-minute workout, got dressed, got her daughter up and fed, found out her backup baby-sitter wouldn't be able to take care of her daughter until mid-morning, called the office to let them know, packed up her child and her food for the day and dropped her off at the baby-sitter's later than she would have liked.

The third man I interviewed had overslept and missed his breakfast. He'd taken some time to play with his daughter before getting dressed and going to work.

I was so depressed after just these interviews, I probed no further.

"Women have more energy," one man said to me, hearing of my findings.

"That's because they have to," I shot back.

Now I'm wondering: does all this juggling make us leaner and meaner, or just tired and more frazzled?

My cousin, who runs a major industry association, told me things are really changing out there; I should talk to women in their 30s.

I suggested he randomly select five or six senior managers in their 30s and ask them the following question: "When the baby-sitter doesn't show up, who stays home?"

There was a short silence. Then he said, "I see what you mean."

We may be in the midst of change, but women's mornings are still more frenzied. I can really appreciate that as I sit here writing my column after 7 p.m. It's because this morning, I hit road construction on the way to camp, had to deal with a child with pinkyeye, then turned my attention to the fires I had to put out at work.

If I hurry, I can get the pinkyeye medicine at the drugstore before it closes, and pick up some film for camera class at camp.

The writer is a columnist for The Stamford Advocate.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

PEACE WITH SYRIA

Sir - The US must not be a guarantor for any troop involvement in the Golan Heights. I know there is much talk about moving Syria and Israel to conclude a peace treaty. However, a peace treaty has to be concluded on the basis of real mutual interests on the part of Israel and Syria - not on the basis that a third party or the UN will be the link in such a treaty.

If there is no vital interest involved for Syria in making sure that peace with Israel will work, then there is no reason to hope that American lives will make Syria understand the situation differently. The best peace is mutual deterrence. Just as Syria and its military weaponry are close to

Israel now, so too, Israel and its military weaponry are close to Syria now. Russia and the US had a mutual deterrence policy which worked - and only because it worked could both nations go on to a better arrangement. The US cannot afford to be linked to the UN Golan Heights peace-keeping force nor should it send troops or hire mercenaries to be on the Golan.

The foreign policy of the US must be based on its own vital interests and the need to keep Israel strong enough to be truly able to defend its own citizens.

TOBY WILLIS

PART-TIME MAYOR

Sir - Contrary to protestations by Ehud Olmert, the part-time mayor of Jerusalem, he is responsible for the damage caused here. He lit the fires, then can't understand why the forest is burning. By his inflammatory demagoguery, by his incitement to riot, he acted like a Likud politician, and not as the mayor of this city.

Who is going to pay for the dam-

Jerusalem.

MIRIAM LAHAV

BETTER MAINTENANCE NEEDED

Sir - Having returned to Israel as tourists after seven years in Canada, my family and I were most impressed with the progress: new buildings, new highways, new shopping malls.

What we do not understand though is how the same developers, after having spent millions on making their developments look state-of-the-art, then forgo the basic maintenance of the buildings. What I speak of is the general lack of hygiene in the developments. For example, in Dizengoff Center on Friday, three of the five women's washrooms were dirty and lacked paper. There were dog droppings on the ramps. In a number of restaurants, we found the cleanliness of the washrooms very poor.

For a country that is putting forward such a major effort to attract tourists, attention to such detail is critical. You can spend all the money you have on buildings, but if their maintenance is neglected, visitors go away with a foul odor.

A. ANHANG

Tel Aviv (Winnipeg).

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Notes

Souter's Score:

We were delighted by David Souter's conclusion that the Satmar Hasidic school district in upstate New York represents an unconstitutional fusion of church and state. Anthony Kennedy, even more tantalizingly, suggested that Mario Cuomo's real sin was to draw political boundaries along religious lines, creating an unconstitutional religious gerrymander. But Kennedy undermined the analogy by conceding the constitutionality of the village of Kiryas Joel itself. The Hasids, in any event, are likely to win in the end: five justices said they thought *Aguilar v. Felton* should be overruled. (This was the unfortunate 1985 case that created the mess in the first place: it bars publicly funded classes for the handicapped on parochial school grounds.) Meanwhile, the dissent of Antonin Scalia was comically over-the-top: he called Souter's opinion "astounding"; "unprecedented"; "facile"; "presumptuous"; and "unheard of"; and said it was created (his italics) "out of nowhere." Souter rose to the occasion and brushed aside Scalia's boilerplate rantings: "Justice Scalia's dissent is certainly the work of a gladiator, but he thrusts at lions of his own imagining." Unless Scalia can modulate his rhetoric, he runs the risk of becoming increasingly marginalized.

Let's Eliminate the Hearings Entirely:

Multiracial activists have long complained that the racial categories used by the federal government to collect data and enforce civil rights laws are confusing and inaccurate. In response, the Office of Management and Budget is holding three public hearings in July. Under consideration are the following suggestions made by federal employees, social scientists and the activists:

- adding a "multiracial" category... so that respondents would not be forced to deny part of their heritage
- adding an "other" category...
- providing an open-ended question...
- combining concepts of race, ethnicity and ancestry
- adding a "Middle Easterner" category
- using "categories for response" that can be decoupled from "categories for reporting data." For example, the categories could permit responses reflecting multiple origins; later these data would be aggregated into reporting categories following a set of standards...
- [eliminating] race and ethnicity... entirely

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Jim Hightower

Economic Soap Opera

Psychobabble. It's a pet peeve of mine — the use of pop psychology to impute emotional motives to some person or a whole group. No discussion of welfare, for example, is complete until some psychobabbler claims that welfare mothers have "a dependency psychology" — when, of course, what they mostly have is no decent job and too little education.

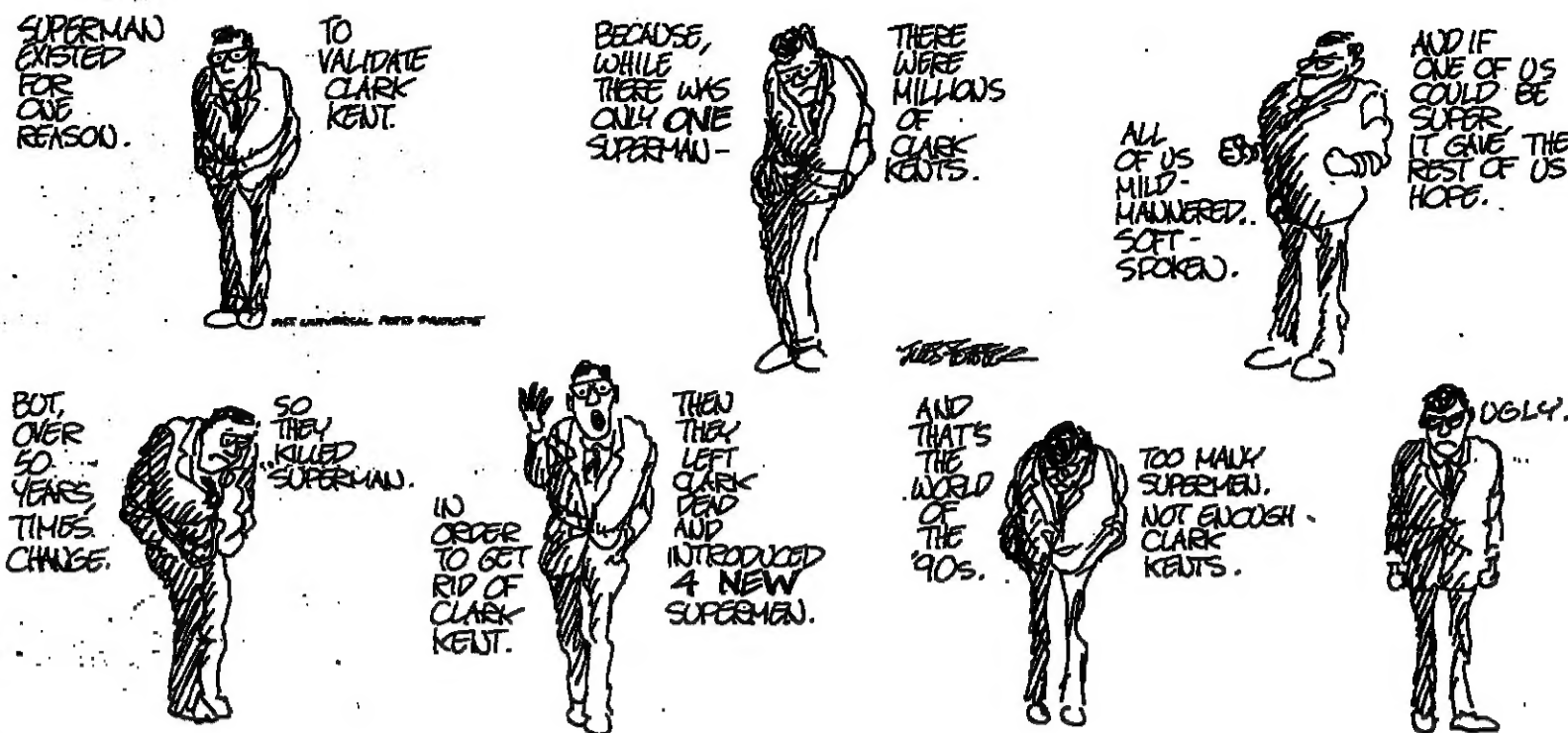
What a hoot, then, to hear economists suddenly falling into the gibberish of psychobabble these days as they try to explain not a group... but the economy. Take the recent fall of the dollar's value on world currency markets. Instead of their usual arcane jargon describing "export-to-import ratios," "durable goods inflation," and the like, economists are suddenly using touchy-feelie language, scripting the fall of the dollar like it's some kind of overwrought soap opera. Let's call it "As the Dollar Turns."

Flip through today's clips and you'll read about the dollar's "psychological barrier"; about foreigners who have "negative sentiment" toward our currency; about "malaise," "depression," and "lack of confidence" weakening the dollar; about investors feeling "spooked"; and even the ultimate psychobabble: "the dollar suffers from being too popular."

So tune in next week to find out if the Fed will ride to the rescue of the dollar, if Wall Street falls back in love with Bill Clinton, if our currency can recover from the "psychological battering" it has suffered at the hands of currency speculators, or if — as one choked-up economist blurted — it's all "a bad dream."

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FEIFFER®



Martin Peretz

Jericho Diarist:

Waiting

I am the first person on my block to visit Palestine. No problem getting in. There wasn't even a Palestinian checkpoint at the turn in the road that Israel and the PLO had agreed marks the beginning of autonomous Jericho. It was precisely over these checkpoints — symbols of sovereignty — that Yasser Arafat's men held the peace talks at an impasse for months. But now, though they had won their point, the Palestinians were not exercising their options — at least not here. Doubtless there's more of an epaulet-and-beret show at the Gaza frontiers and on the Allenby Bridge from Jordan. But then, I'd guess also that the Israelis are not waving cars through those crossings without some much as a peek through the windows, which is what they are doing here: Jericho is the administrative headquarters of the autonomy regime, a sleepy place where history seems to have stopped centuries ago. Before 1967, when Israel captured the West Bank, the town attracted rich winter visitors from neighboring Arab countries. The Hisham Palace Hotel was to Jericho what the Old Cataract is to Aswan (or was, until Muslim extremists took to shooting tourists). But it is not at all handsome, not even in the chunky way of the King David in Jerusalem. Still, for some weeks it seemed that its pretensions were about to be restored as fact: Arafat himself, journalists were told (not least by the inn's owner), would make the Hisham Palace his White House. A more sobering reality has set in. The hotel was outfitted as a press center, with telephones, fax machines and T.V. and radio equipment for the PBC — "the Palestinian equivalent of the BBC," as I was informed by a nice local, one of the few actual residents to land a job with the returning centurions.

Today, a few young men — there are almost no young women on the street — clustered with rolled-up banners for a demonstration. The stringers dozed in the sun. The police said it would be a demonstration against Israel's refusal to release prisoners who wouldn't sign a pledge of non-violence. A moneychanger told me, however, that it would be a protests against the lingering Israeli ban on workers from the territories. Of course, once the PLO begins to govern in quotidian ways, Palestinian protests will most likely be directed against their own — that is, if protest is permitted at all. But Palestinian control hasn't set in yet. This is Abu Jihad territory. Photographs of Arafat's No. 2, slain by the Israelis in Tunis in 1988, are much in evidence. You don't have to talk long with those who have lived with (and under) the Israelis before you detect resentment at, anxiety about, or fear of the exiles from Tunis. As one lucky-to-be-functioning Jericho resident put it, "If Arafat imposes his loyalists on us it will be just another occupation." Tough talk, especially to a stranger.

We'd driven down with a British journalist, pretty and partisan, attached, not surprisingly, to *Newsweek*. She had been "on this story" for four years, she said, and "it is now over." She was on her way home. Not that there weren't some interesting articles to write: "For example, the one about the Redouins, twice made refugees, first from the Negev and now from Ma'aleh Adumim," the sprawling new Jewish suburb east of Jerusalem. I had the sense she didn't want to stay around for the inevitable disenchantment. When she referred to Arafat she uttered his talismanic name, "Abu Amar" — "father of war."

Is the father of war out of touch with his people? Are his sons? The Palestinian police and security force in Jericho was trained in Iraq. Soon we will see how and what they learned. But they did not seem brutal; they weren't even efficient. One official numbered them at 800, another at 150. These forces now put out a weekly newspaper, and when we arrived at what used to be an Israeli canteen, several Palestinians were assembling the second issue of their twelve pages. "Last week we called it *Al Awda*, which means 'the return,'" a police spokesman informed us sadly. "But then we found out that there was already another paper called *Al Awda*. So we've called it *Al Aqsa*," after the silver-domed mosque next to the Dome of the Rock in Jerusalem, I presume.

There are many cleavages among the Palestinians of Jericho. Between the old social structure and a new one not yet quite emerged. Between the king's people and Arafat's. Between the traditionalists (not only fundamentalists) and the secular ideologists. But the deepest fissure is that between the insiders and outsiders. Those who will (or want to) return are at odds, partly out of experience, with those who stayed. It's not clear how the difference will affect Israel. It is Israel, however, that has made that difference. The insiders have been abutters to a rambunctious democracy, and some of those insiders want just that for themselves.

Still, make no mistake about this: no one wants Israelis in Jericho. The signs welcoming travelers to restaurants and shops used to be in Arabic, English and Hebrew. Most of the Hebrew ones have been painted over. The peace agreement is not a reconciliation but a divorce. It is a divorce, however, in which the two parties are doomed to see each other every morning. There is no escaping the geography of this place. Geography is on everyone's tongue, and not just the Palestinians'. Every Palestinian we encountered in Jericho said there would be no peace without a sovereign Arab restoration in Jerusalem. The Holy City is the heart of the body. Israeli optimists say these are just slogans. Some of these optimists say there are sensible solutions to every problem, even to the problem of Jerusalem, the weightiest of them all.

I'm not so sure. We were sitting in the office of the colonel who now commands the Jericho police. He was "seeing journalists," he said to someone who knocked on his door. He told us that "the Jews" had left a big drug trade in Jericho, that "the Jews" weren't cooperating, that "the Jews" made violations." Behind his desk was a map of the holy land. Not just Jericho and Hebron and Jerusalem, but Natanya and Tel Aviv and Haifa. And what was the country on this map called? Yes, you guessed it, "Palestine."

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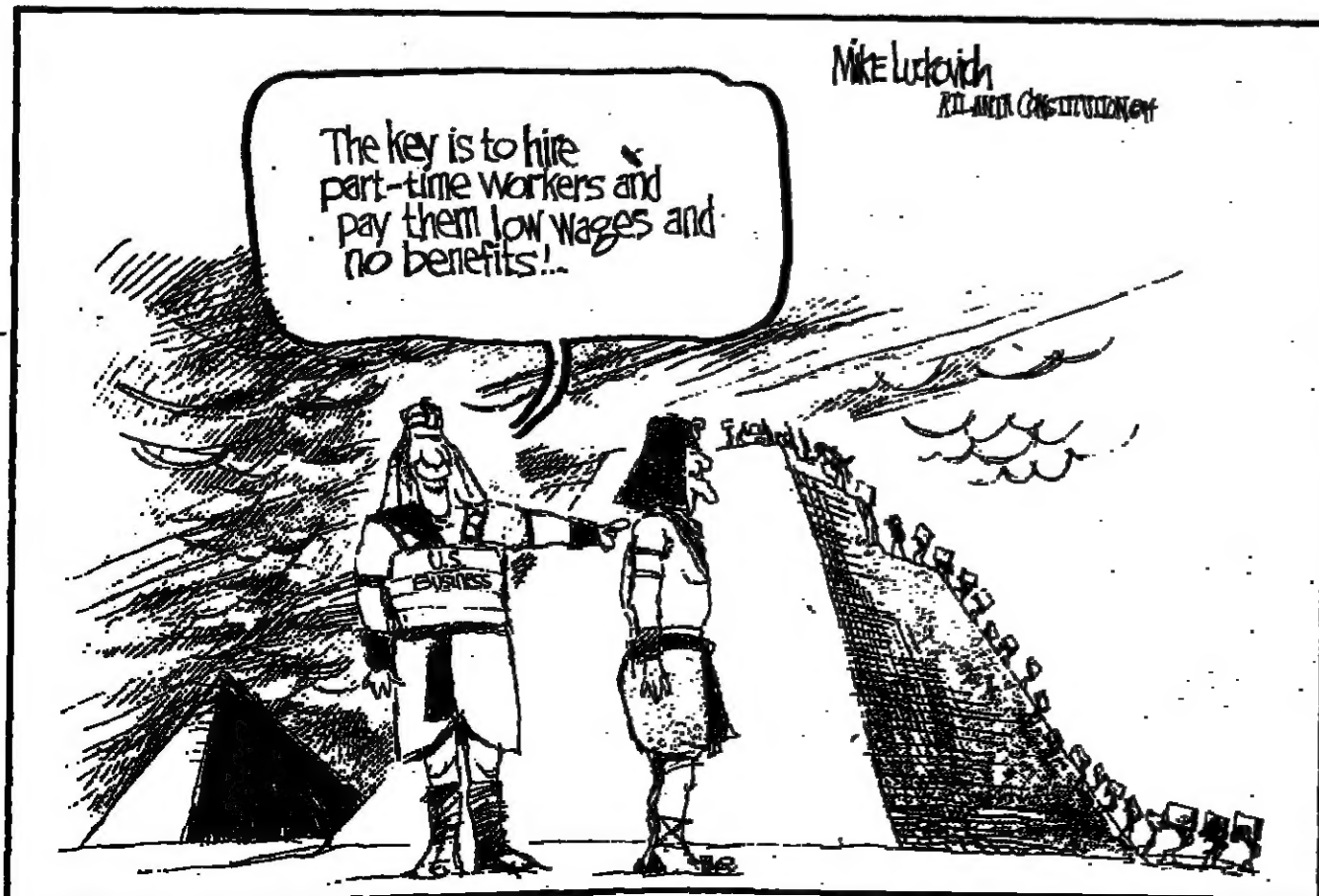
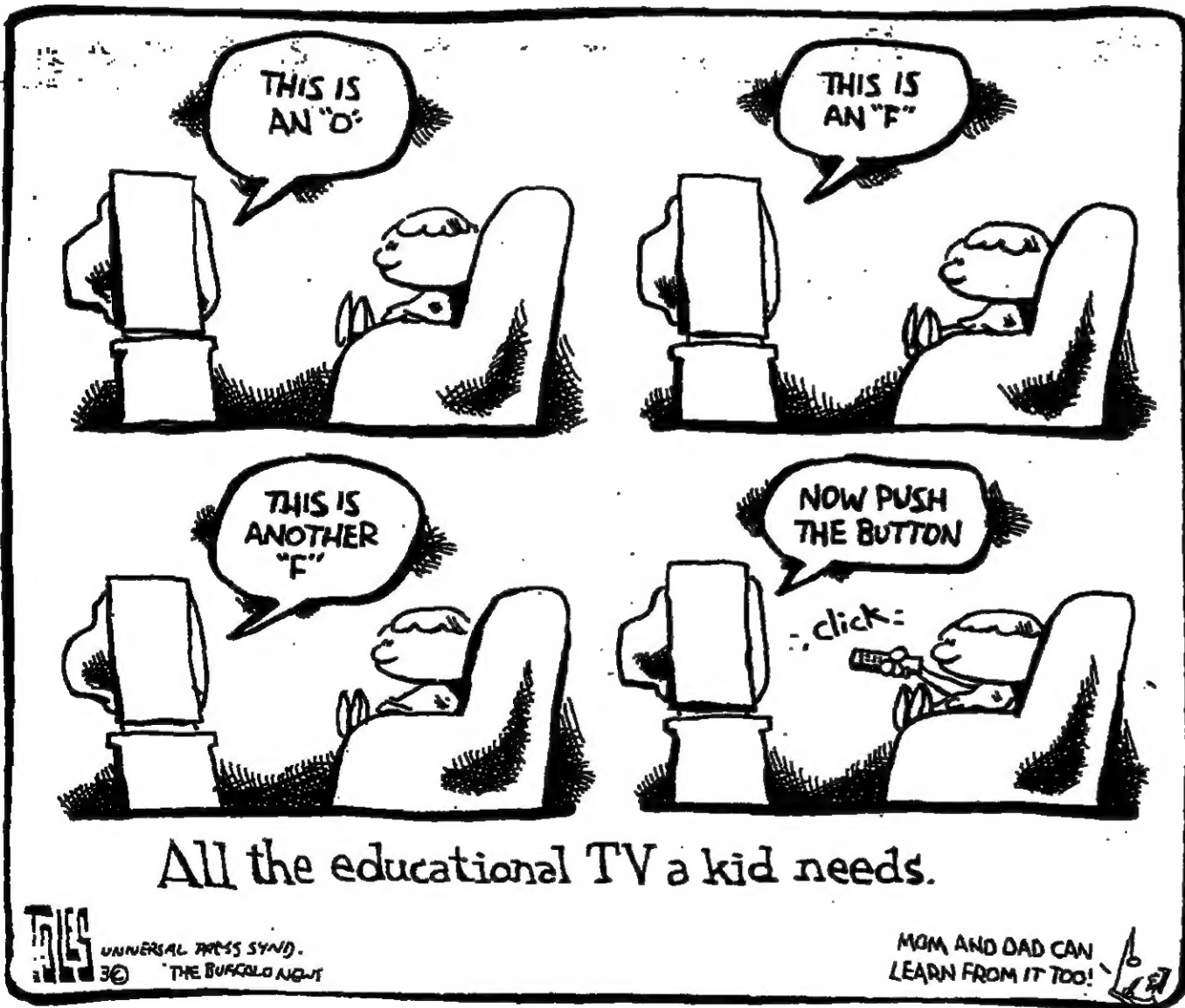
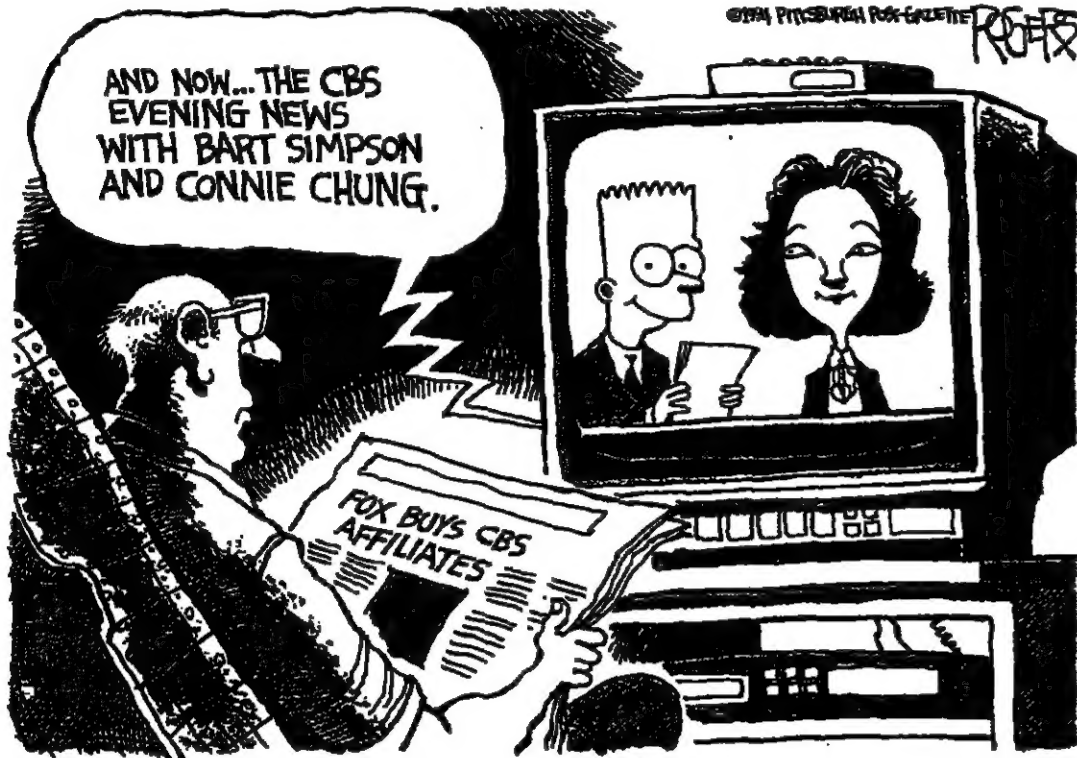
"WHEN YOU SAID P.L.O. STREET SWEEPERS I THOUGHT YOU MEANT AUTOMATIC WEAPONS."

PERSPECTIVE WEEKLY

Editor
Guy Bernfeld

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EDITORIAL CARTOONS



Cohen and Solomon

Do the Founding Fathers Benefit From Media Bias?

We the ~~White~~ People

James Madison and many other founders of the United States were masters of large plantations. They made sure that the U.S. Constitution would perpetuate slavery: counting each slave as three-fifths of a person, with no rights. Is this just old, irrelevant history — dredged up from water over the dam? Not at all.

Patriotic holidays come and go, but one theme remains fairly constant in our country's mass media: The Founding Fathers were a sterling bunch of guys.

Their press notices were the usual raves this July Fourth — superficial accolades for leaders of the struggle for independence.

The Founding Fathers, according to the New York daily *Newsday*, "declared that they were willing to fight for the principles of freedom and self-determination, and then went on to create a form of government that has allowed its people to endure and prosper."

The *Orlando Sentinel* proclaimed: "The Fourth of July, the birthday of this grand experiment in human liberty, should be a reminder of what it's all about — not material wealth or political advantages, but human freedom. Those who made the American Revolution are its best explainers."

Fortunately, while such puffery was making its accustomed rounds this July Fourth, other perspectives reached newsprint. "From the outset, ordinary people decried America's great contradiction — proclaiming liberty for all while practicing slavery," wrote Linda R. Monk in the *St. Louis Post-Dispatch*. Columnist Vernon Jarrett of the *Chicago Sun-Times* was blunt: "Among the Founding Fathers, there was no broad commitment to freedom for all."

It's true that the famed men of the American Revolution were brave, eloquent and visionary as they challenged the British despot, King George III. But present-day news media usually avoid acknowledging an uncomfortable fact: Many heroes of American independence didn't seem to mind very much when they benefitted from injustice.

Take the brilliant man who wrote the Declaration of Independence, 218 years ago. Thomas Jefferson certainly had a passion for freedom: "We hold these truths to be self-evident, that all men are created equal, that they are endowed by their Creator with certain unalienable Rights..."

All men? Not quite. The luxuries of Monticello were made possible by slavery. Jefferson may have wrestled with his conscience, but he lost. He remained a slave-owner until he died.

As for women, forget it. Jefferson assumed that females should have no right to own property, or to vote. Women, he contended, would be "too wise to wrinkle their foreheads with politics."

The truth be told, some of the leading patriots were downright greedy.

George Washington was America's richest man. And he had a record as a land speculator that makes Donald Trump seem like a penny-ante realtor. After the Revolutionary War, Washington used his enormous wealth and power to snap up vast tracts of land.

Patrick Henry was also among the heroic fighters for independence who went on to make a killing in westward real estate. After demanding "Give me liberty or give me death," Henry wanted Indians out of the way. His slogan could have become: "Give me property or give them death."

Turning a blind eye to ugly aspects of the past can be a bad habit that carries over into the present: Too often, journalists and media commentators focus on P.R. facades (old or new), and pay little attention to the people left out of the pretty picture.

In *A People's History of the United States*, author Howard Zinn observes: "The point of noting those outside the arc of human rights in the Declaration [of Independence] is not...to lay impossible moral burdens on that time. It is to try to understand the way in which the Declaration functioned to mobilize certain groups of Americans, ignoring others."

Back in 1776, all the flowery orator about freedom did nothing for black slaves, women, indentured servants or Native Americans. If we forget that fact we are remembering only fairy tales in stead of history.

The Declaration of Independence contains noble sentiments expressed in marvelous language. But the value of high-blown political rhetoric is no greater than its relevance to all people.

During the Constitution's 198 bicentennial, Supreme Court Justice Thurgood Marshall punctured the time honored idolatry of the Constitution's framers: "The government they devise was defective from the start, requiring several amendments, a civil war and momentous social transformation to attain the...respect for individual freedom and human rights we hold as fundamental today."

Most of the delegates who gathered in Philadelphia to draw up the Constitution were wealthy. And they "were determined that persons of birth and fortune should control the affairs of the nation and check the leveling impulse of the propertyless multitude that composed the majority faction," writes political scientist Michael Parenti.

In his book *Democracy for the Few*, Parenti notes: "The delegates spent many weeks debating their interests, but these were the differences of merchant slave owners, and manufacturers, a debate of haves vs. have-nots in which each group sought safeguards within the new Constitution for its particular concerns."

However, "there were no dirt farmer or poor artisans attending the convention to proffer an opposing viewpoint. The debate between haves and have-nots never occurred." And "the delegates repeatedly stated their intention to create a government strong enough to protect the haves from the have-nots."

After two centuries, you'd hope that more journalists would be willing to set aside fawning myths about the Founding Fathers. If that happens, the emergence of candor might even help to shed some light on the ruling fathers of today.

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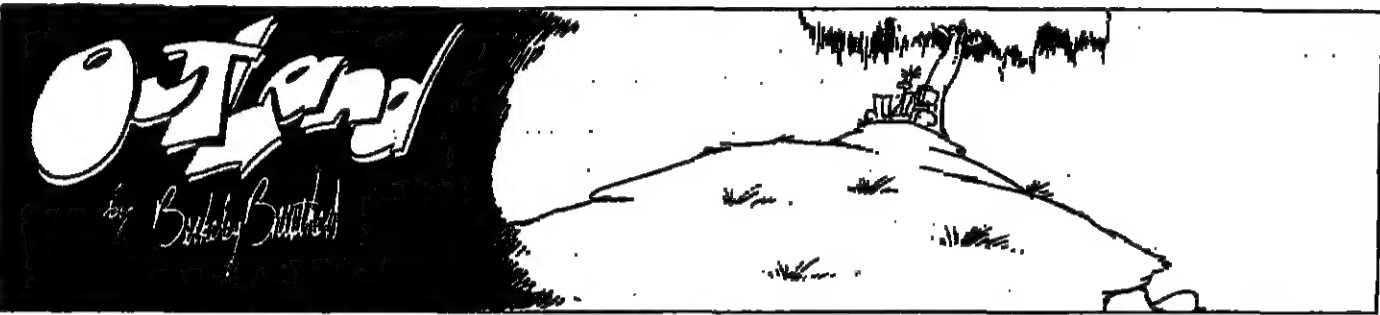
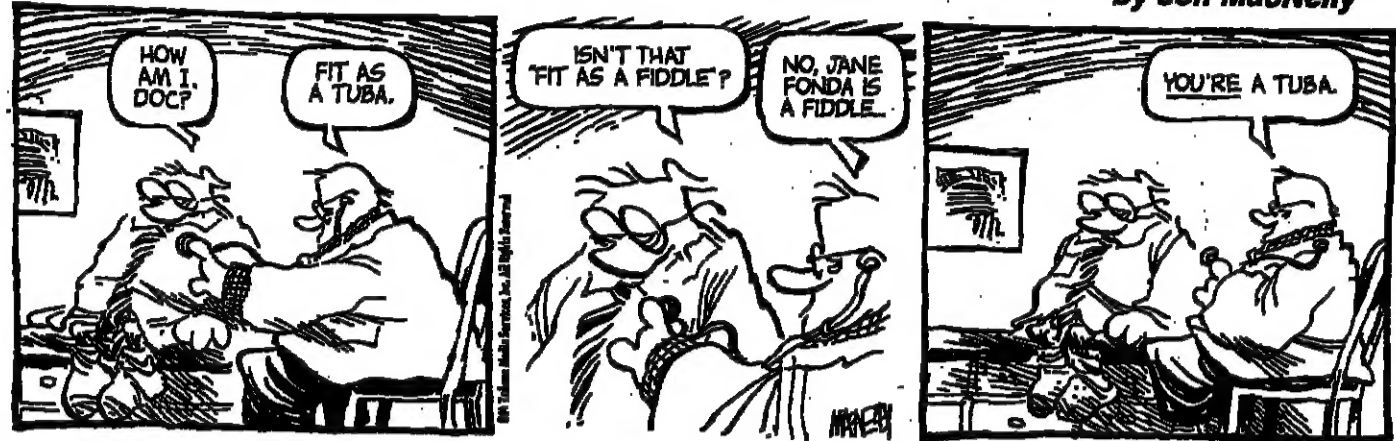
Doonesbury

BY GARRY TRUDEAU



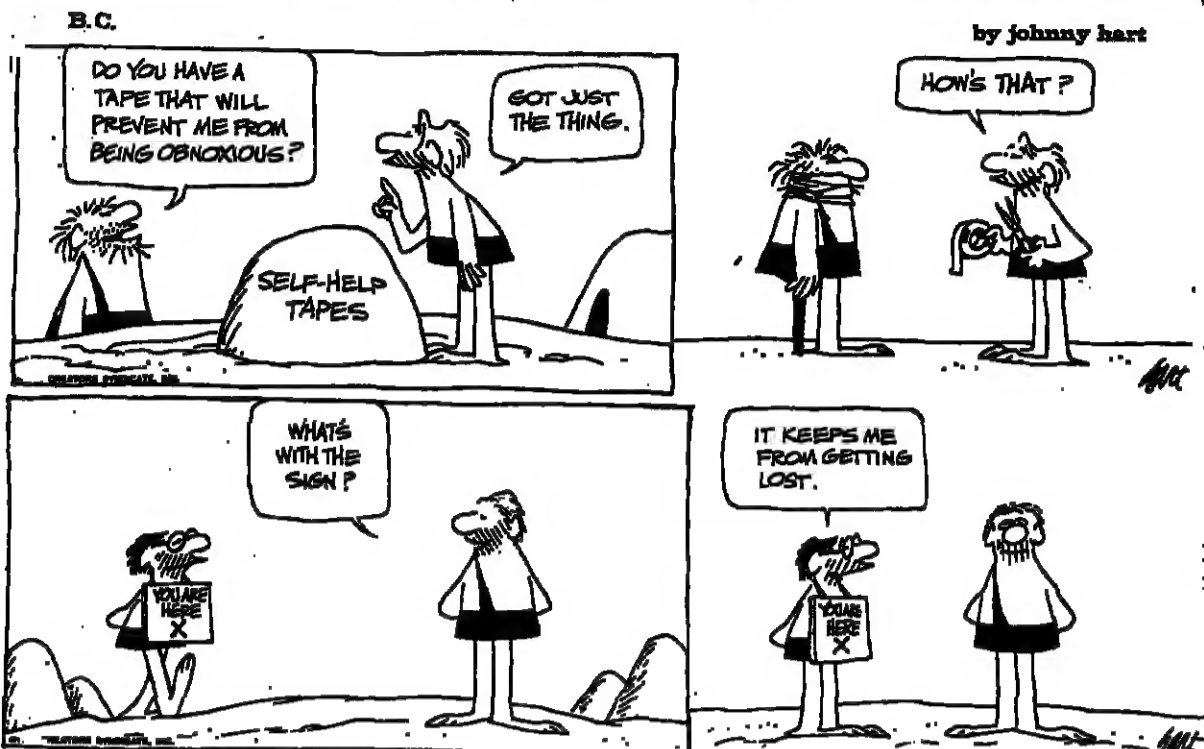
SHOE

by Jeff MacNelly



Calvin and Hobbes

by Bill Watterson



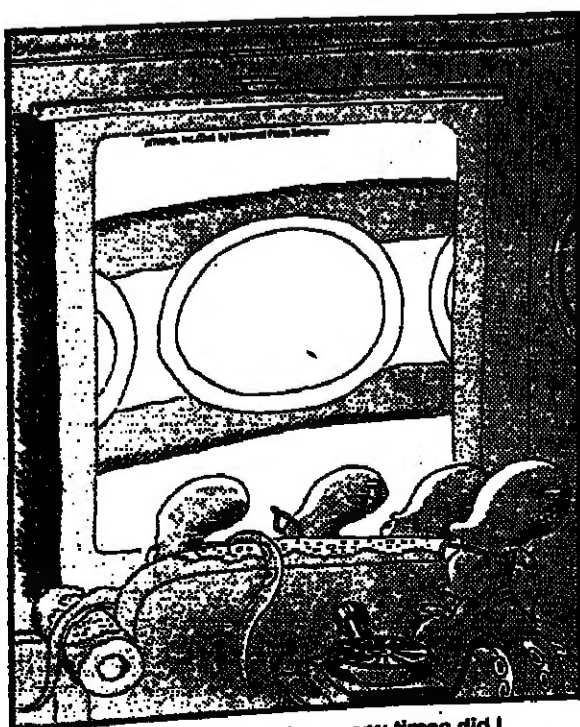
PEANUTS

by Charles M. Schulz



THE FAR SIDE

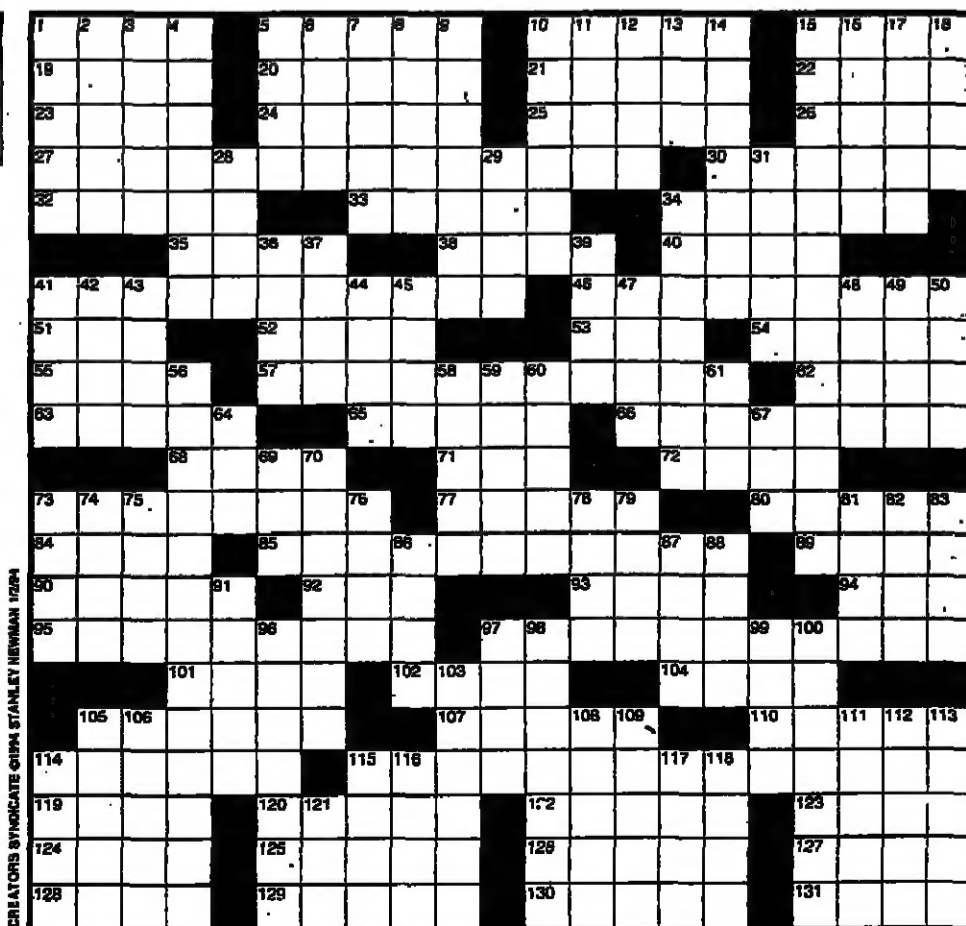
by GARY LARSON



THE NEWSDAY CROSSWORD

Edited by Stanley Newman
B+: Phrases with a little something extra
by Shirley Soloway

- ACROSS
- 1 Makes believe
 - 5 La (opera house)
 - 10 Sitar melodies
 - 15 A cleft
 - 19 Sunbathe to excess
 - 20 "Pomp and Circumstance" composer
 - 21 Steve off
 - 23 Nobelist Wiesel
 - 24 Anne Nichols hero
 - 25 Arrowsmith character
 - 26 Football coach Lombardi
 - 28 Agatha Christie locale
 - 29 Recently altered?
 - 30 Calgary Stampede, et al.
 - 32 First month in Madrid
 - 33 Chinese or Thai
 - 34 Wyoming range
 - 35 Company with a spoketiger
 - 38 One more time
 - 40 Canine comment
 - 41 Raised kippers?
 - 46 Liqueurs
 - 51 Lend a hand
 - 52 '20s cars
 - 53 Business orgs.
 - 54 English county
 - 55 Silver-tongued
 - 57 Tag-team match?
 - 62 De Mille specialty
 - 63 Fortunetellers
 - 65 Subject
 - 66 Abandoned vessel
 - 68 New Rochelle college
 - 71 "Maria"
 - 72 Flamboyant artist
 - 73 Police operations
 - 77 Nephritic
 - 80 Anaconda or adder
 - 84 Headstrong
 - 85 Volatile vacation spot?
 - 89 Director Kazan
 - 90 Peron spouse
 - 92 glance
 - 93 On the level
 - 94 Be human
 - 95 Ousts a champion
 - 97 IQ tests?
 - 101 "We Got Fun?"
 - 102 Slot, essentially
 - 104 Yonder blokes
 - 105 Nero's tutor
 - 107 Barely move
 - 110 Oscar de la
 - 114 Herculean quest
 - 115 Wicked Witch's spare?
 - 119 Clayton Powell
 - 120 Do-nothing
 - 122 Excessive
 - 123 Rounded lump
 - 124 Ingrid's Casablanca role
 - 125 Peachy-keen
 - 126 Ballerina Shearer
 - 127 To be, in Toulon
 - 128 High-schooler
 - 129 Filmdom's Benny Goodman
 - 130 More sensible
 - 131 Letter opener
- DOWN
- 1 Ease off
 - 2 Amaz, by birth
 - 3 Kid's wheels
 - 4 Showed disgust
 - 5 Ego
 - 6 Slinger Laine
 - 7 Shetland fraction
 - 8 "Theme" (Doctor Zhivago tune)
 - 9 Fine horse
 - 10 Narrow valley
 - 11 Enthusiastic
 - 12 Hackman or Tierney
 - 13 Rainbow shape
 - 14 Dual-speaker systems
 - 15 Railroad curve?
 - 16 Sci-fi character
 - 17 Grain repositories
 - 18 Gets it
 - 28 Have a nibble
 - 29 Called up
 - 31 Nebraska Indians
 - 34 Wry
 - 36 Belgrade resident
 - 37 Sandwich cookie
 - 39 Texas city
 - 41 Tea holders
 - 42 Cause to see red
 - 43 Gunn's girlfriend
 - 44 Gouge out
 - 45 "It" laugh
 - 47 French direction
 - 48 Conical dwelling
 - 49 Julia Roberts' brother
 - 50 Religious group
 - 56 Guy wearing five gold rings?
 - 58 Dizzying designs
 - 59 Half a sawbuck
 - 60 Public row
 - 61 Title for 90 Across
 - 64 Dombey and
 - 67 Overhead trains
 - 69 Bird beak
 - 70 '96 Olympics site
 - 73 Scott Decision
 - 74 Wax ecstatic
 - 75 were (so to speak)
 - 76 Fill to the brim
 - 78 Fictional terrier
 - 79 Petty of A League of Their Own
 - 81 Sir Guinness
 - 82 Spock's superior
 - 83 Jug handles
 - 86 Black belt, e.g.
 - 87 Least of the litter
 - 88 Georgia
 - 91 Historian Durant
 - 96 blue moon (rarely)
 - 97 Quicker-than-the-eye movement
 - 98 Eucalyptus trees
 - 99 Mint or marjoram
 - 100 Came out
 - 103 Moon of Uranus
 - 105 Move like a crab
 - 106 Rub out
 - 108 Salami style
 - 109 "There's no alight"
 - 111 Streisand's Prince of Tides costar
 - 112 "Loo-Ra..."
 - 113 Fossilized resin
 - 114 Walking manner
 - 115 Israeli airline
 - 116 Deal (out)
 - 117 Treat meat
 - 118 88 days, for Mercury
 - 121 DuPont's HQ



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Op Ed

Not So Hata

Remember when we worried that Japan was going to replace us as the world's most powerful economy and eclipse us the world's political leader? It hardly seems possible now. For the last two years, while the United States has been growing and becoming more competitive in world markets, Japan has been struggling with recession. The Japanese model — export-led growth, carefully orchestrated and subsidized by the cooperative mandarins of industry and bureaucracy — seems not to have been a perpetual-motion machine after all. There is only so much wealth a country can create without letting citizens, as opposed to corporations, share in it. Yet Japan has so far been unable to make the transition from its current economy, which promotes savings, investment and production, to a new, more flexible one that would permit what Japan and its trading partners need: more Japanese spending and private consumption.

This is the economic background to Japan's current political chaos. Just as Japan's postwar economic rebirth depended on protected, government-guided corporate giants, so was its political system built on ritual voter approval of a single party, the Liberal Democrats (LDP). Japan's remarkable political and economic stability

was, of course, greatly assisted by the cold war security umbrella of American military power. A friendly, semi-disarmed Japan was the anchor of the U.S. strategy to check the Soviets in Northeast Asia without reviving the threat we defeated in World War II. But the inevitable result of thirty-eight years of quasi-democratic, one-party rule was the corruption and downfall of the LDP.

The conventional wisdom is that Japan's political crisis couldn't be happening at a more inopportune time for the United States. Certainly it has made the task of American diplomats, accustomed to dealing with a predictable and compliant succession of LDP ministers, much more difficult. And certainly the end of the cold war has made the security environment in Northeast Asia more, not less, treacherous. We need a coherent, confident Japanese government as a partner against North Korea's nuclear ambitions. (The Socialists, who will lead a shaky coalition with the LDP, have historically been soft on North Korea.) We also need an interlocutor with whom to coordinate G-7 economic policy, and with whom to negotiate bilateral trade issues.

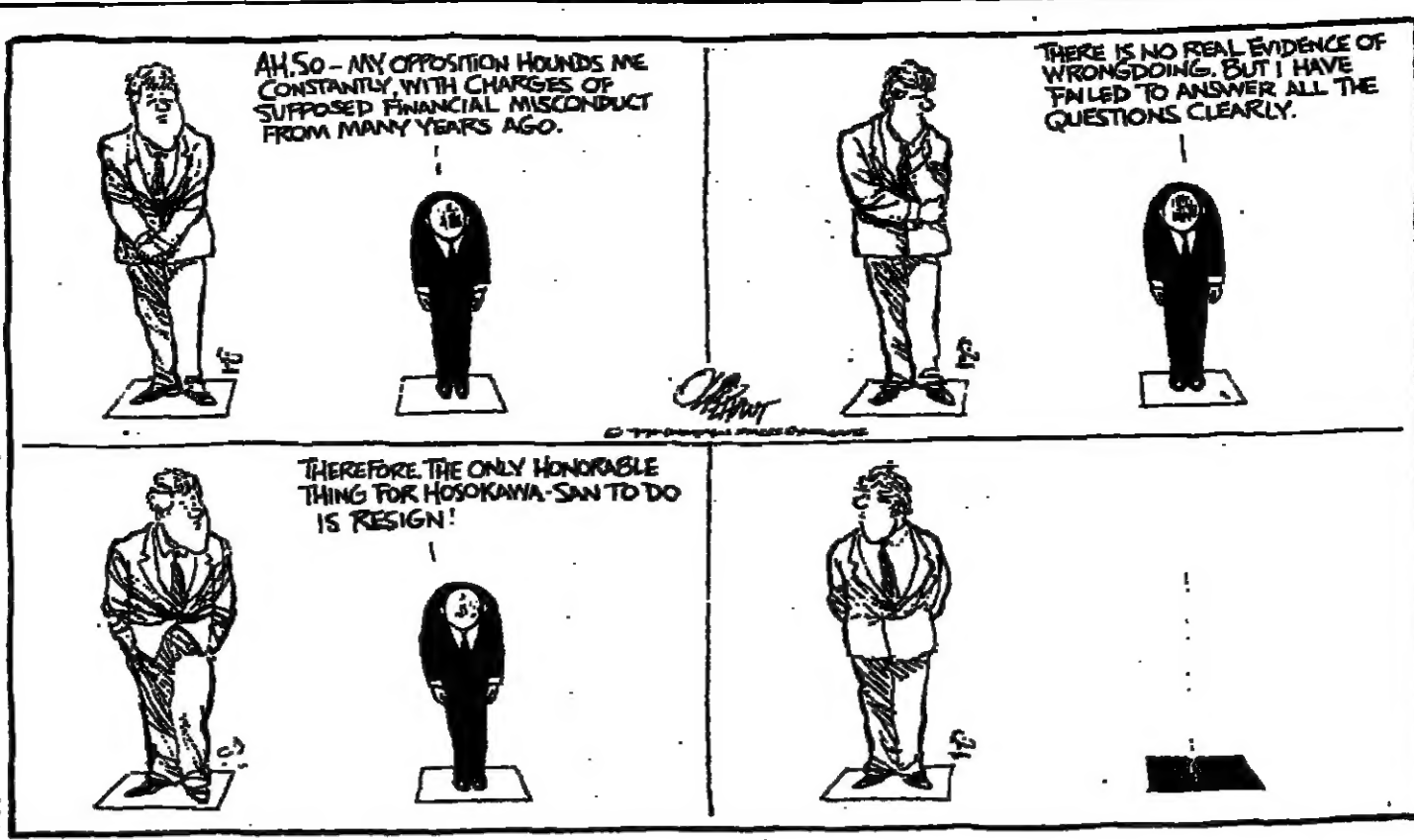
But the worries about Japan, though legitimate, are a bit overwrought. The currency markets may prove capable, in their implacable way, of easing our trade deficit by driving down the dollar. (A cheaper dollar, for the moment, will have to substitute for the negotiated deals the Clinton administration craves. It may even prove more efficient.) And a case can be made that the political mess in Japan is actually in everyone's long-term interest. Like its former Fascist allies Italy and, to a lesser extent, Germany, Japan's postwar political and economic systems were rendered artificially stable by the cold war threat. In all of these countries there was a fine line between government-business cooperation and government-business

parasitism; the political and social consensus imposed by the greater threat of communism, a virtue then, is increasingly a euphemism for the entrenchment of an outmoded political class. Consensus has been a boon to postwar Germany, Japan and Italy, but not an eternal one — a fact that became manifest only after the end of the cold war shook up the old systems.

What we are witnessing now in Tokyo is the inevitable dramatics of a society suddenly learning to accommodate political conflict and competition. The Japanese are taking the first difficult steps toward becoming more politically developed as a nation. The crisis should not be viewed only as a headache for American diplo-

macy — which it surely is. It is the necessary prelude to economic and political reform, which the last two prime ministers, Tsutomu Hata and Morihiro Hosokawa, attempted to enact against the fierce resistance of old-style corporations, politicians and bureaucrats. The widespread public sentiment in favor of cleaner politics and a consumer-oriented society provides some reason for hope that they will eventually succeed. American goals (a more open Japanese economy, a more active Japanese role in security matters) will be far easier to achieve with a Japan that has modernized and revitalized not only its economy but its democracy.

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Flora Lewis

Jerusalem Looms at Mideast Moves

Paris - The long voyage toward peace in the Middle East is now fully launched. There is still no guarantee of ultimate success. But the Summit talks in Paris last week and new negotiations in Cairo on extending Palestinian autonomy to the whole of the West Bank mark a crucial new stage.

Both Israel's Yitzhak Rabin and the PLO's Yasser Arafat are now personally engaged to the point where neither could outlast a failure. They both know it, and it creates a firm interdependence.

They are sticking by their initial agreement to hold off tackling the most difficult issues — Jerusalem, a Palestinian state, the Jewish settlements. But, willy-nilly, these points are slipping onto the table and it getting harder and harder to avoid them.

The next decisive step will be Palestinian elections. There has been a curious reversal of roles. Until a few weeks ago, the Israelis were pushing for a vote as soon as possible. In both its dealings with the PLO and arguments with its domestic opposition, Rabin's government will be better off with a democratically validated interlocutor, an autonomy regime arising from the ballot box.

Arafat was holding back, insisting first on working out complex details of autonomy. Now he is pushing for an early vote, even contacting ex-President Jimmy Carter about organizing an outside election monitor team. Given Carter's role in Israel's first peace treaty with Egypt, that is both highly appropriate and symbolic.

According to PLO sources, what spurred Arafat was first the promise that the Hamas movement which opposes the peace process would not try to disrupt carrying out the

Gaza-Jericho agreement. Even more important has been his reception on his first visit to Palestine since the 1967 war, too long delayed but nonetheless reassuring to him. He isn't worried now about winning elections.

But the Israelis are getting more concerned about the disputed questions to be resolved before the vote can go ahead. The key ones concern Jerusalem. In their secret Oslo accord, the two sides agreed that Arab residents of Jerusalem could "participate," which the Israelis contend means the right to vote. In their view, from outside the city limits. The PLO says it also means the right to run, implying representation of parts of Jerusalem.

Arafat has offered a surprising compromise on where Jerusalemites should vote, suggesting polling stations in-

rent stands. The Israelis can hold to proclaiming sovereignty in all of Jerusalem as its "eternal capital," and the PLO can proclaim its future capital in Jerusalem without blocking intermediate accords.

This is useful. But it shows the importance of moving on quickly to think about innovative approaches for the city's future. The original UN plan to internationalize Jerusalem is obsolete and must be dropped. Both sides agree on that. And already Israeli peace supporters recognize that some way must be found to accommodate Arab emotions, Arab claims, Arab self-rule in the city. PLO peace supporters accept that the city cannot again be physically divided.

For nearly a decade, John Whitbeck, an international lawyer in Paris, has argued for "two states-one capital," what he calls a "condominium solution" that would be the "best, second choice for everybody." There are variations on the head-cracking theme. Whitbeck is right that the time has come to discuss them and prepare for inevitable compromise.

Peace can't be forced on the still wary enemies. But the rest of the world's eager yearning for them to achieve it is an important element in reinforcing the momentum.

Rabin says he needs more time to move his people to accept the constraints peace will bring along with rosy opportunity. Arafat says he needs more money to convince his people of the benefits they can expect with those constraints. There is some of both available. The movement is progressing from words to deeds, at last.

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New York Times Syndicate

"The original UN plan to internationalize Jerusalem is obsolete and must be dropped. Both sides agree on that."

David Nyhan

Public Enemy No. 1

I don't know how I missed it. I wake up one day, and welfare mothers are Public Enemy No. 1. I'd been so busy keeping track of all the other Public Enemies that the insidiousness of poor women with babies just escaped me. Over 14 million people on welfare, and they snuck up on us, just like that. Incredible. They must have been wearing sneakers. I waste all those columns fretting about the Russians, The Bomb, Saddam Hussein, Khaddafi (is he still on our radar screen?), the Medellín cartel, Manuel Noriega, the Great Commie Plot to seize Grenada — is Grenada still there? — the Mafia here, the Mafia in Italy, the Mafia in Russia — did I leave any Mafias out? — the OPEC gang of oil gougers, that the conspiracy between poor women and their offspring snuck up on me unfretted about.

"It's now clear," begins the *Wall Street Journal*, clearing its opinionated throat for a we-mean-business editorial, "that teen pregnancy among unmarried girls is one of the most destructive social ills of our time."

Excuse me; more destructive than the handgun manufacturers' lobby and the assault-weapon makers of the globe? More destructive than the Exxon Valdez?

How about those wholesalers of death who peddle plastic land mines at six bucks a crack, which cost a grand each to locate after war ends, and meantime maim thousands of peasants a year, every year? More destructive than the cigarette makers and their Wall Street handmaidens? More destructive to family intactness than, oh, say, the largest 100 U.S. corporations who've downsized so precipitately that millions of middle-class families lost paychecks?

More destructive than all that? Wow. Somebody phone the city desk. We got a helluva story here. The implied thievery of the undeserving poor is a ploy that goes back beyond the Sheriff of Nottingham, past assorted emperors, to the Pharos and whatever the establishment had to offer prior to them.

There's be more in the way of dinars, pence or drachmas for us good solid middle-class folk, goes the argument, if these drafted proles didn't keep gorging on welfare and popping out babies. Even Bill Clinton, my president, the fellow whose agenda I defend even when his agenda seems oddly focused on personal gratifications of the lower order, even Bill's on the bandwagon.

Never mind three strikes and you're out; now it's two years and you're out of AFDC payments, lady, unless you take this here job we don't have for you yet, but think we will. Hmm. The notion of "ending welfare as we know it" sounds an awful lot like kicking poor people when they're down. But there's no question the proposition sells like hotcakes. Clinton and his New Democrats have learned what Reagan and his Old Republicans re-discovered 14 years ago. The poor are always with us, and the rich are always tired of carrying them.

Even the average American, arguably one of the most generous persons on the face of the planet, gets tired of being played for a sucker. And a considerable lobby has coalesced around the notion that it's these gosh-darn welfare mothers that are screwing it up for the rest of us. They make marvelous scapegoats, these mothers: 38 percent black, 38 percent white, 17 percent Hispanic, three percent Asian. The average welfare mom with two kids lives on a cash grant that amounts to \$308 a month, down 40 percent over 20 years when you figure inflation, down 25 percent in the same time if you add in food stamps.

Seventy percent will be on welfare less than two years, seven percent will be on more than eight years, but the seven makes everyone forget about the seventy. That's politics, that's journalism, that's entertainment. Ronnie Reagan's Welfare Queen never went away, she's back and living in prime time.

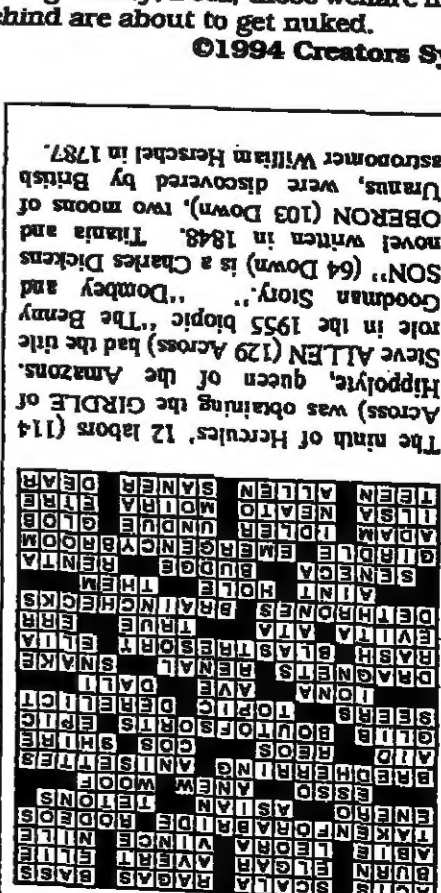
Fecund females having sex, and, sometimes, nine months or eight or seven months later, having babies, have drawn the ire of politicians of every stripe. But it is the fundamentalist Republicans of the so-called "Values Movement" who bray loudest. These gents — you notice they're most always gents? — think they're onto a good thing. Keep talking about poor women and sex, and everyone forgets about rich white people soaking up tax subsidies on million-dollar mortgages, and retired stockbrokers cashing in the max on Social Security checks, and the whole Medicaid thing for the pretty-well-off elderly, etc.

"People have asked me how I managed to live on \$500 a month," writes a divorced Wisconsin mother, Beth Lovern, who related how she finished her college degree as an AFDC recipient in the *Utne Reader*, which reprinted her original story in the *Madison, Wisconsin, "Isthmus."*

"Clearly, that's barely possible only if the head of household stays home, incurs no work expenses (gas, bus fare, clothing, parking) and doesn't have to pay for child care." Lovern, who's since left AFDC rolls, said: "Did I have to go on welfare? No — I chose to." She has an attitude: "Able-bodied, yes; simpleminded, no. When I reached the point of paying 18 percent interest on credit card cash advances to buy food, I knew I was digging myself into a hole I might never get out of." After divorce and a paralegal job making \$7.50 an hour, and paying her daughter's health insurance, she netted \$1,000 a month. Her bills: rent \$465, child care \$340, \$80 toward the credit card, \$21 for the phone, \$60 for utilities. "This left \$334 which was supposed to pay for food, gas and any clothing we might need."

She got herself fired to make a soft landing on welfare. She became adept at manipulating the system, got back into school, and took food stamps, rent subsidies, a child support order, and student aid. She's remarried, working and has a second child. "I hope my story shows that being on AFDC, at least for the short term, can be a good thing." Sorry, Beth; those welfare moms you left behind are about to get nuked.

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A mole whose belongings have surfaced

Jerusalem Post Staff

BOOKS, papers and personal belongings from the Moscow home of the British communist spy Kim Philby are to be sold at Sotheby's in London tomorrow.

The 128 lots in the sale represent the contents of Philby's library and other objects found in his Moscow flat after his death in 1988. The sale is being conducted by Sotheby's on behalf of his widow, Rufina Philby.

Harold Adrian Russel ("Kim") Philby (1912-1988) was the most famous British spy in this century. After 24 years of passing secret information from British intelligence to the KGB, he made a sensational defection to the Soviet Union in 1951.

The truth then emerged that Philby was the "third man" (after Guy Burgess and Donald Maclean) who had successfully penetrated Western intelligence, ensuring that virtually the entire post-WWII effort to counter communist espionage had long been known to the Kremlin.

A huge reassessment of the operation and management of the Secret Service followed. This led to a perennial preoccupation with "moles" (so successfully fictionalized in the work of John Le Carré), resulting, among other things, in the exposure in 1979 of Anthony Blunt as the "fourth man" of a total of at least 17 reported Soviet agents, the majority of whom remain unidentified.

Among the papers found in Philby's flat is the only surviving text of his first lecture to the KGB, delivered in 1977. Philby arrived in his "second Motherland" thinking he would immediately be made central to the KGB's better understanding of the West.

In fact, it was 14 years before he was invited to make his "maiden speech" in which he reminisced on his early motivation and recruitment.

"It was quite literally in the last week of my Cambridge career that I made the final decision - to devote my life to the cause of Communism" (lot estimate £2,000-£2,500).

WHEN HE was called into service, he ran "Philby's England Course" for training highly selected Russian students to be KGB agents in England.

Typescripts of his aims, training methods and reports on students were found in his flat, together with a letter of thanks from five students to "comrade professor Kim." They thank him for his "titanic efforts" (as well as "profes-

sional jokes") and express their admiration for him "as a friend, wise teacher and comrade in arms" (lot estimate £3,000-£4,000).

One of Philby's star pupils, "Michael," served as a KGB agent in London in the early 1980s. The letters Philby wrote to him during this period include enthusiastic thanks for a "parcel of goodies," including Quality Street chocolates, and encouragement to Michael to keep carrying the torch despite anxious moments - the endless spy revelations of the time.

Reflecting on the gloomy political situation Philby writes: "It is difficult to see many gleams of light these days or indeed as long as such ignorant clowns as that Ronald Reagan can find the backing to become President of the United States.... I am beginning to get really afraid of what those lunatics in Washington are up to" (lot estimate £500-£600).

Discovered by Rufina Philby in 1990, tucked inside some books, are several incriminating items relating to Philby's trip to America in 1933 and his association with the Viennese Socialist Society. Had these trade-union passes and notes, possibly relating to secret rendezvous, been found in any official search of his flat at any time during his career in the British Secret Service, they would have immediately thrown him under suspicion (lot estimate £400-£600).

Also lying undiscovered was a manuscript for an unpublished article on how field agents should behave when arrested. Philby was of the firm opinion that they should not plead guilty. After his death, all Philby's articles still relevant to intelligence work were confiscated by KGB "minders." This one eluded them (lot estimate £1,500-£2,000).

Philby attempted but never finished an autobiography. The surviving typescript, included in the sale, shows him to have covered his early years until the 1930s. Apart from a couple of recent extracts in *The Sunday Telegraph*, it remains unpublished.

The folder containing this typescript bears an inscription in Russian in Philby's hand - "I.R.V. [Rufina] kills me she will have more than enough reason to do so" - probably a reference to Philby's heavy bouts of alcoholism (lot estimate £5,000-£6,000).

Philby published one book of memoirs, entitled *My Secret War*, in 1968. Included in the present sale are the only known working papers for it, incomplete but



Field agents should not plead guilty when arrested, Kim Philby wrote in an article his KGB minders failed to confiscate. It is expected to fetch at least £1,500 in auction tomorrow. (Sotheby's)

amounting to 98 pages of typescript and photocopies (lot estimate £1,000-£1,500).

LETTERS BETWEEN Philby and Graham Greene reveal a warm friendship. Philby had recruited Greene to the British Secret Service during the war. Greene was never afraid to defend his former boss and did so famously in his introduction to *My Secret War*.

Philby told Greene that he was "overwhelmed" by the warmth of his tribute. In letters written between 1978 and 1988 Greene discusses news, people and current politics. Of Malcolm Muggeridge, who took a very different view of Philby, he writes, "I have learnt too well that the underpants conceal a stiletto." The final letter is one of condolence to Rufina after

Philby's death. He writes: "It was always the high points of our visits to Moscow when we saw you and Kim together. To me he was a good and loyal friend."

Another portion of Philby's library includes books by or belonging to his father, the famous Arabist, St. John Philby. Among them is a copy of Rudyard Kipling's *Kim*, inscribed to Philby's mother. It was after Kipling's fictional hero Kim Philby, who was also born in India, was named.

The briefcase used by Philby to carry documents while in the service in the UK (lot estimate £700-£900), his camera (lot estimate £800-£1,000), his Homburg hat (lot estimate £2,000-£3,000), his Russian polytrot watch (lot estimate £500-£700), his cocktail shaker (lot estimate £300-£500), his Cuban cigars, pipes and lighter

(lot estimate £1,000-£1,500), cuff links (lot estimate £600-£700) and three ties - one Indian, one English and one Russian (lot estimate £600-£700) - are among the personal belongings which his widow has decided to include in the sale.

Philby's brown leather wallet still contains the press cutting, which he always carried around with him, of the first official announcement of his defection. It was not until five years after his arrival that this *Izvestia* article appeared (lot estimate £500-£600).

Photographs of Philby with the KGB chiefs of various countries in the Soviet Bloc record the status he was granted in his later years. On his 75th birthday they presented him with a model of the earth encircled by a spy satellite (lot estimate £1,200-£1,500).

City of miracles

THERE AND THEN

SHAYA SHAPIRO

ZEEV Erlich's *Yericho Hayehudim Ledoroteha* ("Jewish Jericho throughout the Ages," Jerusalem, Avraham Cohen, 208 pp.) provides a guide to Jericho that does justice to the city's rich historical heritage.

It also shows how one of the early pioneering efforts of the Zionist movement almost resulted in a community being set up there. In ancient times Jericho served as the gateway to civilization for weary travelers who crossed the desert carrying spices from the East to the rich potentates of the West.

It was possibly the first city in the known world, and it was enclosed by a very thick wall to ward off marauders covetous of its wealth. Apparently, only one gate admitted strangers from the east; as a result, it could be taken only by a ruse - or a miracle.

Archaeologists have discovered the remains of no fewer than 23 towns on Jericho's site. Conquerors apparently destroyed everything they found standing.

Joshua himself cast a curse on whoever dared to rebuild Jericho. The malediction was realized when a Beit-El resident defied the ban and lost all his sons.

Miracles did occur in Jericho. The very fact that people could survive in the parched valley was due to a spring that brought life to the town.

That the place was thickly populated is evident from the presence of numerous burial sites which predate Abraham's arrival.

The miracle of Joshua stopping the flow of the Jordan River to allow the passage of the Israelites could be explained by the fact that alluvial deposits are carried by the river from the snow thawing on the Hermon, occasionally interrupting the flow.

During the Second Temple period, Jericho was the preferred habitat of half the Temple priests. The sound of trumpets blown on the Temple Mount was heard perfectly in Jericho.

And it was to Jericho that Aristobolus the Hasmonean fled to evade Herod's long hand. But Hillel, a sage without temporal ambitions, felt safe enough in Jericho for a time.

Intolerance marked the rule of

the Byzantines. Jericho, holy to the Christians, was forbidden to the Jews, who moved to Na'aran. An impressive mosaic floor in a synagogue provides evidence of their presence there.

In 638, Moslems gained control of the area and a new age began. Jericho was reopened to the Jews, and they were allowed to establish a synagogue there, in recognition of the help they gave in building a local palace for the Arabs.

Not being a border stronghold any longer, Jericho was allowed to decline. A British geographer, visiting the place in 1839, found a cluster of makeshift houses inhabited by no more than 200 people who were growing tobacco and cucumbers. The following year, Ibrahim Pasha's troops, on their way home to Egypt, burned the site down completely.

Some 30 years later, there seemed to be new hope for Jericho. The Ottoman government announced it would sell 4,000 dunams in the southern Jordan valley to the highest bidder.

In the Jewish Quarter of Jerusalem, a group of seven dreamers wanting to live outside the Old City walls heard the announcement and decided to acquire the plot to set up a farming community there.

They formed a society called Petah Tikva, the "threshold of hope," and offered shares at 100 napoleons apiece.

The Petah Tikva bidders made the highest offer and were reasonably sure they would not be refused. But, after months of waiting, a question came from Istanbul to the Jerusalem pasha: What is the nationality of these Jews?

The answer - that Rabbi Meir Auerbach and Nathan Grigat were Russians; David Gutman and Avraham Medobrichin were Austro-Hungarians; Ben Zion Leon and Yehoshua Yellin held British passports, and Yoel Moshe Salomon was German - cost the pioneers the plot.

A month later the sultan announced that he himself would buy the plot.

The Jewish dreamers turned elsewhere to pursue their idea, and Petah Tikva became the name they gave to a farming project in the area of the Yarkon River.

Problems that are inbred

HEADS 'N' TAILS

D'VORA BEN SHAUL

A reader in Jerusalem shares a concern of many people who have bought dogs with impressive pedigrees.

The letter reads: "About a year and a half ago I spent a large sum to purchase a German shepherd bitch puppy. The seller said that she was from an illustrious line and the certificates he showed me said this was true."

"When this bitch was 18 months old, I decided to find her a suitable mate to produce pedigree puppies. To my surprise, the German Shepherd Club of the Israel Kennel Club demanded that I have X-rays done of my dog before I breed her."

"I did this and was amazed and confused when they told me that my bitch has a hip deformity, which means that, even if I breed her, her puppies will not get paws. Why? Is this condition a threat to my dog's own health?"

For at least 20 years it has been known that certain breeds, almost always large ones and especially German shepherds, suffer from dysplasia, a hip-joint deformity. Whereas the femur normally fits into a curved iliac bowl at the

hip, in cases of dysplasia this so-called bowl is too flat and the round femur head is not properly accommodated. Many studies have shown that there is a genetic link in this condition.

Quite rightly, the club does not want to propagate this deformity. Over the years your bitch may develop clinical symptoms of this condition. She may limp, or become weak in her hindquarters.

Fortunately, any competent veterinary surgeon with a knowledge of canine orthopedics can perform a "shelf operation," which involves grafting a piece of bone into the hip in such a way that it prevents slippage. This does not change the genetic defect, but it makes life easier for the dog.

This particular defect is not the only one screened by the Kennel Club. There are breeds, notably collies, for example, that must have an eye examination for a genetically transmitted tendency to blindness. Other breeds must be examined for deafness.

But the fact that your dog or bitch is not approved for breeding does not mean that it is not a wonderful companion.

Unlimited kohlrabi: A fate worse than fat

EPHRAIM, the wife asked me one day, "am I fat?"

"No, woman," I answered, "you are not fat."

"But you are fat."

"In that case, so are you - and how!"

As a matter of fact, neither of us is obese in the literal sense of the word. The little woman is perhaps a little rounded out at the edges, and I bulge slightly in profile, but this is more a personal feeling than the verdict of the scales.

In any case, we registered with one of the weight-watching outfits. My wife's pals tell marvelous stories about those associations which put an end to the easy life of heavy people, of how they trimmed down a well-known hairdresser from 130 kg. to 40 kg. in two months, of how a theater manager dropped from 90 kg. to 0 and vanished altogether.

At the branch office we were received by a manageress and an emaciated lecturer.

"Only three months ago he used to give up his bus seat to two old ladies at a time," his awed disciples related. "Nowadays he dances ballet."

The lecturer introduced us without further ado to the basic tenets: a personal file is opened for every weight watcher; for a modest fee he receives a weekly oral brainwashing and a foreign-made printed menu. You don't have to stop eating, only to give up your sense of taste. Bread, fats, noodles, fried horrors - out! No cereals, carbohydrates - no starches, if you please!

On the other hand, lots of kohlrabi, as much as you fancy, with no limitations. And cabbage. And two glasses of milk a day. Plenty of fish. Sports are out because they whet your appetite. Best of all: sprawl on the floor and drink lukewarm water once a week. On the seventh day they weigh you at the branch office and if you haven't lost any weight, you ought to be ashamed of yourself. Those who have are chuckled under the chin.

THE MANAGERESS took us into a corner and weighed us in, without shoes but with our keys.

"You don't have the required overweight..."

Everything went black before our eyes. We would never have believed that for such purely formal reasons we should be robbed of our elementary right to join the family of weight watchers. Actually, I lacked three kilos to become a certified fatter; she a bare one-and-a-half, though she is built on the small side.

So we went home and started eating everything that was forbidden according to the formula.

A fortnight later we plucked back to the branch office, fully confident of having earned our admission. To make sure, I stuffed NIS 50 in small change into my pockets.

"Welcome," the manageress said. "Now I can open a file for you."

The lecturer instructed us: "Three big meals a day! Don't starve yourselves! Diversify! If you get fed up with cabbage, switch over to cauliflower! And the main thing, no starches! See you in a week's time."

We went home and kept the commandments for seven days and seven nights. Our cheese was white and lean, our bread green with cucumber. Then we weighed in at the institute and flushed with shame because we had gained 200 grams - without a coin in our pockets.

"That happens," the manageress remarked. "Just be stricter."

That week we consumed only kohlrabi. Indeed, we didn't gain any weight. The process had been arrested. The hand of the small scale we had purchased for home use stayed in the same place all the time.

To tell the truth we were somewhat disappointed. Seems that other watchers have also had this experience. The body won't cooperate, refuses to consider calories. What does one do in such cases?

"I skip a meal a day," a veteran disclosed. "At lunchtime I go to the diplomats' restaurant and by the time they serve me it's dinner."

"I," a plump lady confessed, "go to the swimming pool and lose weight by immersion. At least for a few minutes I'm happy."

The little one discovered an old pharmacy in Jaffa where the scales

are inaccurate, but half the women in Tel Aviv are queued up there. And in any case, truth always comes out at the branch office. Our weights had become stuck for good.

I looked at the little one, puzzled. Really, how come she wasn't losing weight? As far as I was concerned there was an explanation of sorts: a rumor had come to my ears according to which I was stuffing myself night after night with underground fats in the kitchen.

Yes, this was the vengeance of our ordeal, the most critical by all accounts. I suddenly awoke to the mad thought that I was dying to smell the sweet aroma of sizzling fat, that I had to fry something right away or else I'd go out of my mind.

I would have been ready to kill for a few calories; the very sound of the words "cream puffs" caused a strange weakness in my knees. In my dreams I visualized a lovely girl dressed in a white bridal gown running over a field, with

her blonde hair streaming in the wind.

"Starch!" I shouted after her in Russian. "Starch, wait for me, ya te lubili, starch..."

That night I caught up with her. I slid off my bed, slunk into the kitchen and in a towering rage poured a whole pan of popcorn into a pot of boiling oil. I topped the white mountain with an outlandish amount of butter and gulped it all down - carbohydrates, starch, starch, starch. That was the start of the calorie festival.

At midnight I was standing in front of the stove, frying pears, when the fragile figure of my wife appeared in the doorway. With her eyes closed she walked straight to the laundry basket and, with an unwavering hand, took out about a dozen bars of chocolate. She peeled off the foil and with a conspiratorial gesture let me take a bite. We devoured the lot, grunting like animals.

At the last moment my survival instinct awoke. I crawled to the telephone and with my remaining strength dialed the branch office. "Come quickly. We're eating. Chocolate."

"Hold fast!" the duty lecturer shouted. "We're on our way!"

The car drew up with screeching brakes. They broke down the door and found us wallowing, drunk, among the foil. They saved one-and-a-half bars altogether; the rest had swelled us beyond recognition.

The lecturer seated us on his knees. "Never mind, children," he said quietly. "This happens quite often to our members. They gain back in a few hours all they had lost over a number of years. So we start again."

"Rabbi," we implored, "no kohlrabi."

"Then let it be lettuce."

We dropped out of the ranks of the weight watchers because we were utter failures.

I again bulge somewhat in profile, and the little one is rounded out at the edges, and so what? The stout fellow now has a pleasant disposition. He is more generous and less excitable, because it takes such a lot of time for his anger to spread through all that adipose tissue. Nor is he aggressive, since he can't run.

So get fat, folks, get fat. Stop starving yourselves and throw out all that rotten kohlrabi.

Translated by Yohanan Goldman

THE JERUSALEM POST

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After World Cup '94, whither American soccer?

DANA POINT, Ca (Reuter) - Moments after the American team crashed out of the World Cup to Brazil, US soccer chief Alan Rothberg was consoling the morose and tearful players in their locker room.

"What you players have done today and in the last few weeks for soccer in America is phenomenal - an incredible promotion for our sport. When you get over the defeat, you'll realize you've been a part of sports history in the United States."

With those words, Rothberg was expressing the hopes of both US and world soccer officials when the sport's international body, FIFA, awarded the hosting of the 1994 World Cup to the US.

The decision was ridiculed by pundits who viewed the idea of staging the world's biggest single sports event in a country without an outdoor professional league as sacrilege.

The very term "American soccer" had seemed oxymoronic four years ago when a US team of fresh-faced innocents was humiliated in the 1990 World Cup - losing all three first-round matches with a combined score of 8-2.

But since Italia '90, soccer here has grown in stature and many believe the team's modest success - reaching the second round for the first time in the Cup's history - combined with a generally exciting tournament overall will do wonders for soccer as a spectator sport.

There are two camps - reflected by two of the US team's leading players.

According to the perhaps jaundiced view of defender, rock musician and resident team Bohemian, Alexi Lalas: "The circus comes to town, then the circus leaves."

On the other hand, there is goalkeeper and captain Tony Meola, one of US soccer's biggest boosters. "If we do half as well in the next four years as we did in the last, we will win the World Cup."

No one denies soccer has caught on as a participation sport, with about 16 million people actively playing. Of that number, the Soccer Industry Council of America estimates 12.1 million are under the age of 18 - including President Bill Clinton's daughter Chelsea.

But the problem is that without a major outdoor league, promising players have nothing to aspire to do- mentally. Like several of the US team's players, they have to go abroad to earn a living as professionals. That means that children playing soccer do not grow up with local heroes.

With the World Cup, perhaps youngsters will now have their soccer idols in Meola, Lalas, Cobi Jones and Eric Wynalda. The Americans' unlikely march into the second round, with a stunning victory over Colombia, has grabbed headlines, pushing aside "American" sports



THE SKEPTIC - Defender Alexi Lalas (l) thinks US soccer glory is transitory. (AP)



THE TRUE BELIEVER - Goalkeeper Tony Meola sees bright future. (AP)

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An estimated 22 million viewers watched the US narrowly lose to Romania - a record for a soccer game on American television. The ABC network said early indications were that several million more tuned in on Independence Day.

US team manager Bill Nuttall said the collapse 15 years ago of the North American Soccer League, which specialized in importing aging foreign stars like Pele and Franz Beckenbauer and not promoting home-grown talent, did not preclude suc-

cess. "When the NASL folded, everyone thought soccer was dead in the US," he said.

But others feel World Cup exposure is not enough and that soccer officials must use the momentum to promote the proposed Major League Soccer that hopes to begin play next season.

"If we don't get a pro league, it will be a disaster," said Al Mistri, a successful college soccer coach at California State University at Fullerton. "The talent is definitely there,

but the league is essential."

That league itself could be threatened by the very success of the US team in the World Cup, since foreign clubs are already interested in a number of players.

Striker Joe-Max Moore has signed a one-year loan agreement with German second division club Saarbrücken; and Lalas, Jones, Paul Caligiuri and Mike Sorber have also attracted offers, Nuttall said.

Sorber, the defensive midfielder who won a starting place in the

American lineup, said he was tempted to go abroad.

"I'm inclined to stay here and help the new league, but I've got to take care of my future. It would be a challenge to play in Germany or Spain," Sorber said.

Lalas, the defensive find of the tournament, could also find it difficult to turn down a contract in Europe that Nuttall said was worth at least \$500,000 a season.

Coach Bora Milutinovic has molded a squad around a nucleus of hard-

ened professionals already playing in Europe, such as John Harkes, Tab Ramos and Thomas Dooley.

After the loss to Brazil, he was full of praise for what they have done for the sport. "We said our goodbyes in a great atmosphere and I think the players have done something truly spectacular."

Lalas, Sorber, Jones, they are just out of college and faced some of the greatest players in the world. They have shown everyone the United States has a bright future in soccer."

Tennis Hall of Famers ponder sport's future

NEWPORT, RI (AP) - Hana Mandlikova, a four-time champion in Grand Slam singles events, and Arthur "Bud" Collins Jr., the dean of American tennis broadcast journalism, were inducted into the International Tennis Hall of Fame.

But even as the sun broke through a gray fog at the grass courts of historic Newport Casino, a dark question loomed: Is tennis dying?

The inductees' answer? No, but ...

"The sport is far from dying, it's too good a game to die," Collins said. But he added there are a lot of trouble spots for the game in the US.

"The US Tennis Association is not reaching out into the communities," he said.

Collins named a series of inner-city tennis development programs, including one run by women's tour player Zina Garrison Jackson in Houston, and said, "All these programs are struggling."

He said before the USTA spends \$300 million to \$400 million to renovate Flushing Meadows, the home of the US Open, the organization should look at the charge in its own constitution to spread recreational tennis and donate funds to support existing inner-city tennis programs.

"They could spend \$2 million, not miss it, and yet make the game bloom," Collins said. Collins also said he was concerned with the

structure of the sport; namely the scheduling of tournaments and the proliferation of alleged "championship" tournaments.

"I think tennis as an entity has to get its act together, which means that the ATP and WTA and the ITF and the agents must have summit conferences constantly," he said. "What can be more ridiculous for a sport than to have the ATP Championship on the same week that the women have the Virginia Slims Championships?"

"We've got to have a unifying television program, and you've got to unify the schedule," Collins said. He proposed ending the tennis season in the first week of October and

paring the calendar down to 22 "big-league" tournaments a year.

Mandlikova said she believed the game needs more "characters like [the late] Arthur Ashe and John McEnroe."

On Pete Sampras, she said, "Maybe I should not say that, but I just don't think he gives a lot back to the sport on the court."

She also said that, especially in the wake of the recent departure from the tour and entry into drug rehabilitation of former teen prodigy Jennifer Capriati, the women's tour should raise the minimum age at which girls can turn professional, with girls allowed to play only three or four tournaments in their first year on the tour.

China needs to improve drug testing methods

CANBERRA (AP) - China needs to improve its sports drug testing record and athletes are aware of international regulations, a member of the International Olympic Committee medical commission said.

"A lot of people in China are under the misapprehension that herbal medicines are natural and contain no banned substances," Professor Yang Tianle said. "This is a wrong concept, so we have much to do to catch up."

Yang cited a Chinese female volleyball player who tested positive at the 1992 Olympics for strychnine, a stimulant when taken in small doses.

Yang said he hoped to adapt Australian athlete education programs to Chinese needs, while the two countries are working on a formal agreement to cooperate to stop doping.

Many Western athletes have expressed concern about China's testing regime, especially following a series of middle-distance world records by previously unknown Chinese women runners and outstanding performances by sprint swimmers.

Billy Martin: A walk on the wild side

"Wild, High and Tight: The Life and Death of Billy Martin" is Peter Golenbock's plunge into the dark side of the brawling second baseman and manager whom Yankees owner George Steinbrenner fired five times. In his review, John Schullian thinks the author and ballplayer were made for each other (St. Martin's Press, \$23.95, 544 pp.).

ONE reads of the mess Billy Martin called his life and wonders how he ever found time for baseball, the game that put his failings on a national stage when they were best suited to some squalid, anonymous trailer park. He was a relentless boozier, a sucker puncher and a woman chaser, and the sum of his personal ugliness overwhelmed whatever good he did for the New York Yankees.

Even after Martin died in an appropriately messy drunken-driving accident on Christmas Day, 1989, his evil could still be felt. He had anticipated his demise, it seems, by plotting against a sister who had somehow offended him. If she dared to show up at his funeral, he wanted his daughter to spit in her face.

"That's the way it was, pard," Martin used to say when he was alive to tell stories on himself in the cowboy patois he adopted to match his wardrobe. And no doubt he would have had the same response if he had been around for someone to ask about his request for a great expectation. He revealed in his public image as a stand-up guy who took the heat and backed down to no man.

But that was all part of the testosterone-fueled myth that consumed the feral creature who was born Alfred Manuel Martin Jr. If you make it through Peter Golenbock's "Wild, High and Tight," you will find a decidedly different Martin, one who lacked the strength to prevent his own emasculation at the hands of a tyrannical boss and a scheming wife.

His boss was George Steinbrenner, who inherited his father's shipbuilding company, got nailed for making illegal contributions to Richard Nixon's re-election campaign and reigned as the most hated man in New York sports for his boorish ownership of the Yankees.

Steinbrenner hired and fired Mar-

tin five times as the Yanks' manager, all the while maintaining that he was trying to help poor Billy and succeeding only in establishing a certain sickness in both of them.

Mercifully, Martin never married the same woman more than once.

He just kept changing wives as if they were socks until he got to his fourth, a photographer and equestrienne who beguiled him with her sexual prowess and turned what Steinbrenner had left of his mind to pudding.

Martin deserved her. He deserved Steinbrenner, too.

He even deserved "Wild, High and Tight," and that may be the cruelest thing anyone can say of the man.

For this is an unpleasant, artless piece of business, bloated in the extreme at 544 pages and devoid of literary or journalistic merit except for the case Golenbock makes that Martin was driving the day he died, not the buddy who lived to take the fall for him.

The rest of the time, Golenbock proves just what he has in each of his 14 previous books: He is a writer only because he has a tape recorder that works.

His greatest talent appears to be choosing subjects from New York. Since the decision makers in Manhattan's publishing houses have trouble seeing west of the Hudson River when it comes to sports, they unfailingly gravitate toward whoever and whatever plays best in the five boroughs. Do you really think Golenbock would be burdening the world with his second book about Martin - his first was "Number One" - if Billy had managed only the Minnesota Twins? Or the Texas Rangers? Or the Detroit Tigers? Or the Oakland A's? All of which he did, incidentally, but never with hardcover validation.

Golenbock strives mightily to turn Martin's troubles in the 1970s and '80s into psychodrama, and the elements were there. On one side, you



IN AND OUT - Billy Martin (r) was fired during the 1978 season and replaced by Bob Lemon who guided the Yankees to a World Series win.

It took the Yankees to give Martin that, and fittingly the Yankees were the only team he loved no matter how many other stops he made as both a player and a manager. He came up with them in 1950 as a second baseman from the poor side of Berkeley, a background he always made sound worse than it really was but one that also left him with a lifelong sense of inferiority. His smart mouth, quick fists and passion for the game won the heart of the Yanks' legendary manager, Casey Stengel. Along the way, Martin squeezed some grand moments out of his modest physical talents, most notably a daring catch in the '52 World Series and a record 12 hits in the '53 Series. But a fight at the Copacabana got him bounced out of New York in 1956 and offered a preview of the unceremonious departures he always seemed to be taking when he returned as the Yankees' manager.

Golenbock strives mightily to turn Martin's troubles in the 1970s and '80s into psychodrama, and the elements were there. On one side, you

had Billy with his disdain for authority and his hunger for money and respect; on the other, you had Steinbrenner with his clout, connections and unbridled need to dominate. No wonder the two went together like matches and gasoline.

But the same could be said of Martin and almost every other owner he worked for. He didn't need Steinbrenner's warped inspiration when it came to self-destruction. He was so out of control, in fact, that it is impossible to accept Golenbock's contention that he ranks with Stengel and John McGraw in the holy trinity of baseball managers. His obsession with off-field battles kept him from managing more than one world champion, the '77 Yankees, and the 1,253 games his teams won in all are cheapened by the tales Golenbock tells: tales of Martin's drinking during games, of his slipping off to a bar before the final out was recorded, of his campaign to get fired by Oakland so he could wind up back in Steinbrenner's clutches one last time.

And here's the kicker: Martin was

even worse in his personal life. He punched boyhood friends, marshmallow salesmen and anybody else who crossed him. He persuaded his stepfather to quit work so he could claim he was his family's sole support and weasel his way out of the Army. He had a 16-year-old girlfriend when he was 48, married her two years later and slipped off with one of his mistresses two days into the honeymoon. But maybe it was expecting too much for him to do right by his child bride. He ignored his own children, too.

And yet Golenbock tries to muster a defense for Martin by pointing out that he was an alcoholic and that his mother fed his brutality and his paranoia. In an age when no one is held accountable for his deeds, there may be buyers for such twaddle, but they don't live at this address. All you will find here is someone who will give you the following scouting report about "Wild, High and Tight" and Billy Martin: Bad book, worse guy.

That's the way it is, pard.
Los Angeles Times

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16.00 Max out 16.30 World rugby 17.00 Challenge of champions 18.00 World Cup final replay 20.30 International diary 21.30 Supercross 22.00 American games

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MONDAY JULY 18

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TUESDAY JULY 19

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THURSDAY JULY 21

CHANNEL 5

15.00 European junior basketball championship: Israel v Italy 16.00 American games 18.30 Mix out 18.50 WWF 18.45 Live European junior basketball championship: Israel v Lithuania 22.00 American games 23.30 Bodybuilding 00.15 European junior basketball championship: Israel v Lithuania

EUROSPORT (unconfirmed)

9.30 Aerobics 10.00 World Cup soccer: 2nd semifinal and highlights 15.30 Tour de France 16.30 Mountain bike 17.30 International motorcycling magazine 18.30 World Cup soccer semifinal highlights 20.30 Eurosport news 21.00 World Cup soccer semifinal highlights 23.00 Formula 1 magazine 00.00 ATP tennis 00.30 Boring

PRIME SPORTS (unconfirmed)

6.00 Trifolion 8.30 Windsurfing 7.00 Golf 11.00 Snooker 13.00 Aerobics 13.30 World of rugby 14.00 Trifolion 15.00 Motor racing 16.00 Spirit of the Olympics 17.00 Cricket 18.00 World of rugby 18.30 Trifolion 20.30 Snooker 22.30 Motor racing 23.30 Cricket 1.30 Spirit of the Olympics

Record, prestige at stake in tonight's final

British Open lead tied as 3rd round wraps up

PASADENA (AP) — Much hangs on today's World Cup final between Brazil and Italy.

For generations, South Americans and Europeans have argued that they play the best soccer in the world. Now the Brazilians and Italians have the chance to settle that issue on the field.

Each nation has won the World Cup three times. Whoever wins at the Rose Bowl will set a record fourth title in the first World Cup to be played in the US.

The match kicks off at the Rose Bowl at 22:35 Israel time.

The final also features a mini-competition between two soccer superstars.

Italy's Roberto Baggio was named world's best player for 1993 and Brazil's Ronaldo wants to take it in '94. Both strikers have scored five goals in this tournament.

On paper, it looks one of the best-matched of the 15 finals since the World Cup started in 1930.

The problems for the Italians, however, is that they are struggling to put out a team.

Baggio is struggling with a hamstring injury but is still expected to play, and defenders Mauro Tassotti and Alessandro Costacurra are suspended and, two days before the final, midfielder Roberto Donadoni went down with a pulled muscle.

Team captain and sweeper Franco Baresi has been missing since the second game with a leg muscle injury and midfielder Alvaro Recoba has been out since the opening game.

Brazil also had similar defensive problems at the start of the tournament but appears to have sorted them out.



PRACTICE MAKES PERFECT — Italy's Antonio Benarrivo works on his free kicks in preparation for tonight's final.

Mozzer and Ricardo Gomes pulled out with injuries before the tournament started and were replaced. Ricardo Rocha suffered a groin injury in Brazil's opening game and left-sided defender Leonardo was suspended for four games for elbowing American midfielder Tab Ramos in the face.

Leonardo's replacement, Branco, scored the winner that gave his team a 3-2 quarter-final victory over the Dutch.

Today's game presents an intriguing contrast in styles.

Brazil, which won the title in 1958, '62 and '70, represents soccer at its colorful best. Its players are flamboyant to the extent of being outrageous and always try to score goals with style.

Italy, winner in 1934, '38 and '82 and loser to Brazil in the 1970 final, is a soccer traditionalist relying on ultra-strong defense and swift counterattacks. Right now, the injury- and suspension-hit Italians won't worry how their goals are scored.

"We want to win the title, no matter if we will miss important players," Italian coach Arrigo Sacchi said.

Friday, "I can rely on a group of players who survived desperate situations, who reversed almost impossible results, who won games short-handed."

With a minute to go against Nigeria in round two, the Italians were losing and on the way out.

Baggio conjured a goal from nothing to force the game into extra time and fired the winner from the penalty spot for a 2-1 triumph.

expected but now he is producing a masterful display of goalkeeping.

He scored the winner two minutes from the end against Spain in the quarter-final and hit the two goals in Italy's 2-1 semifinal victory over Bulgaria.

That was five goals in three games and suddenly Italy was in the final. While unbeaten Brazil has cruised smoothly to the final with five victories and a tie, Italy has crawled there.

Starting with a 1-0 loss to Ireland, the Italians overcame the expulsion of goalkeeper Gianluca Pagliuca to edge Norway 1-0 and then qualified in third place after tying Mexico 1-1.

Then came Baggio's late-game heroics against Nigeria and Spain and his two-goal performance against the Bulgarians.

Like Baggio, Brazilian strikers Ronaldo (five goals) and Bebeto (three) have hogged the spotlight. But the defense, often Brazil's Achilles' heel, has been another standout feature. Goalkeeper Claudio Taffarel, the only Brazilian squad member who plays in Brazil, also has impressed with his safe handling.

"Brazil is the best prepared team in the Cup," Taffarel said. "We're ready to lock it up Sunday with a golden key."

Brazil and Italy are tied 2-2 in World Cup play.

Italy won 2-1 in the 1938 semifinal at Marseille, France and went on to win the title.

Brazil crushed Italy 4-1 in the 1970 final in Mexico with some of the most breathtaking soccer ever played, and gained a 2-1 triumph in Buenos Aires eight years later to take third place in the tournament.

In 1982, Italy edged Brazil 3-2 at Barcelona on the way to winning the title.

Last night, Sweden played Bulgaria to determine the third-place standing.

TURNBERRY, Scotland (AP) — Fuzzy Zoeller, whistling while he worked his way to a 64, tied Brad Faxon for the third round lead yesterday in the 123rd British Open Championship.

The casual, easy-going Zoeller, a former Masters and US Open champion but winless for eight long years, completed three trips over the vulnerable Ailsa Course at Turnberry in 201, 9 under par.

The steady Faxon, 31, winner of four titles in an 11-season career on the PGA Tour, matched that total with a bogey-free round of 67.

"That's all you can ask for, to go into the final round with a chance to win," Zoeller, 42, said of his share of the top spot.

But that will not be easy, he cautioned.

"If we have weather like this, it's going to take a low round because the golf course is vulnerable like this."

The exceptionally low overall scoring did not extend to Tom Watson, the 44-year-old third round leader who was hoping to match the record six British Opens won by Harry Vardon early this century.

The putting problems that have plagued him for seven seasons again cropped up in the middle of the round.

He missed a 3-footer for par on the 14th, then missed another, even shorter, par putt on the 16th.

It sent him reeling 3 shots off the pace.

But he kept the dream of another British Open alive with a birdie-birdie finish, a 2-putt on the par-5 17th and a 15-footer on the 18th that completed a round of 69 that left him a single shot back at 202.

He was tied at that figure with husky Roman Rafferty of Northern

Ireland, gritty young Jesper Parnevik of Sweden and Nick Price, the amiable man from Zimbabwe who has won three times on the American tour this season and 14 times around the world going back to his 1992 PGA Championship.

Price shot a 67 despite some inconsistent putting. Rafferty finished strong to close at 65, including birdies on two of the last three holes. And Parnevik came back from consecutive bogeys in the early going and played the back in 32, finishing at 68.

David Feherty of Northern Ireland, who shot a 66 as Zoeller's playing companion, was alone at 203, leaving seven golfers within 2 shots of the lead going into today's final round.

English veteran Mark James shot a 66 and was next at 205, 5 under par. Larry Mize, who had a 64 despite weakness from overnight stomach trouble, led a large group at 204.

Also at that figure were Tom Kite, Davis Love III, Craig Stadler, Peter Jacobson, Colin Montgomerie of Scotland, Andrew Coltart of England, Peter Senior of Australia, and Jumbo Ozaki of Japan.

Greg Norman, making a gallant effort at defending his title, closed to within three of the lead at one point, then hit his second shot into the burn on the 16th and made double bogey.

Shaken, he could do no better than match par-5 on the vulnerable 17th and finished with a 69 and a 207 total.

He all but conceded, "I think I've left a little too much to do," he said from a position six shots off the pace.

Zoeller flipped a wedge to lap-in distance for a birdie on the first hole, but did much of his scoring from considerably longer range.

He holed a 15-footer to save par on the fourth — "one of those putts that keeps a round together," he said.

Baggio tentatively in the lineup

TORRANCE, Calif. (AP) — Roberto Baggio was included in Italy's tentative starting lineup for the World Cup final against Brazil, but his coach said a final decision wouldn't be made until the star striker worked out later yesterday to see how his right hamstring is healing.

Coach Arrigo Sacchi also said that if Baggio did not start, he would not play at all.

"He's in or he's out," Sacchi said at a new conference at the team's training headquarters.

Practice was scheduled for Loyola Marymount later yesterday and Sacchi said Baggio would have to show he could move without the pain that has plagued him since Wednesday's injury during the semifinal victory over Bulgaria.

If Baggio, who has scored five goals in Italy's last three games, cannot play, his place will be taken by Giuseppe Signori, a standout attacker from Lazio in the Italian league.

Andrea Ferretti, the team's doctor, said Baggio was able to walk without pain, "but we need to see if he is fit to play."

Millions of Italians are holding their breath as they await final word on the status of Baggio, the ponytailed hero who has almost single-handedly lifted the team into today's championship match.

The star forward said Friday he still felt pain in his right leg, and might miss today's title game.

"It's the grand finale and I can't think to miss it. I hope

I can play, but I have no certainty," Baggio said after his second day of rest. "I still feel a pinch of pain when I flex the muscle."

Sacchi said a lineup without Baggio would place added pressure on the rest of the team.

"He's an extraordinary player, and his teammates will have to engage harder to make up for his absence if he can't make it. It would be a bad blow for the team, as we miss other key players," Sacchi said.

The rest of the tentative lineup announced by Sacchi included goalie Gianluca Pagliuca, Roberto Mussi, Antonio Benarrivo, Demetrio Albertini, Luigi Apolloni, Paolo Maldini, Nicola Bertè, Dino Baggio, Daniele Massaro and Roberto Donadoni.

Sacchi said Dino Baggio, Donadoni and Albertini all were suffering from "muscular fatigue" and would have light workouts. All were expected to play.

The coach also said Franco Baresi, sidelined with a knee injury, could play but was not fit enough to go the entire game.

Gianfranco Zola is ready to play as a substitute for Baggio; Zola comes off a two-game suspension.

"I'm sure that my players will produce an outstanding performance, no matter who's missing," Sacchi said. "I can rely on a group able to reverse the most desperate situations."

Of Brazil, the Italian coach said, "It's an extraordinary team with an impressive offense."

Bonds-Strawberry combo sets Expos back

MONTREAL (AP) — Barry Bonds hit two home runs and Darryl Strawberry homered for the second straight game to lead the San Francisco Giants 7-3 over the Montreal Expos Friday and to their season-high sixth straight win.

The Giants are 6-0 since Strawberry joined the club.

Mark Portugal (8-6) scattered eight hits over seven innings. He allowed three runs, struck out one and walked one to earn his third straight win.

Bonds hit a two-run homer, his 24th, off Butch Henry (6-2) to highlight a three-run fifth inning that gave the Giants a 5-2 lead. Bonds hit his second homer in the ninth off Gil Hefner.

Braves 6, Marlins 4

Tom Glavine won his 11th game and rookies Javier Lopez and Jose Oliva each hit home runs and drove in two runs apiece as the Atlanta Braves moved back into first in the NL East.

Glavine (11-7) allowed five hits, didn't walk any and struck out three in seven innings as the Braves won for only the third time in eight games.

Atlanta moved two percentage points over the second-place Expos.

Lopez ended an 0-for-11 slump with his 11th homer of the year — his first since May 31 — with a two-run shot to right field off David Weathers (8-8) in a three-run second. Oliva drove in the other run with a solo homer, his second.

Pirates 11, Astros 8

Carlos Garcia homered and drove in four runs and the host Pirates staged one of the greatest comebacks in their 107-year history, rallying from eight runs down.

Ravelo Manzanillo (3-2), batting only because Pittsburgh was running out of reserves, hit a game-tying two-run double in the fifth and pitched 1 1/2 scoreless relief.

NATIONAL LEAGUE

East Division				
	W	L	Pct.	GB
Atlanta	55	34	.615	—
Montreal	54	35	.607	—
Florida	48	41	.540	12.5
Pittsburgh	42	47	.471	19.5
New York	41	48	.461	20.5

Central Division				
	W	L	Pct.	GB
Cincinnati	53	36	.593	—
Houston	50	40	.556	3.5
Philadelphia	42	48	.467	11.5
St. Louis	42	48	.467	11.5
Chicago	37	53	.410	16.5

West Division				
	W	L	Pct.	GB
Los Angeles	47	43	.522	—
Colorado	44	46	.489	3.0
San Francisco	41	50	.451	6.5
San Diego	36	55	.396	11.5



JUMPING TO SAFETY — Chicago shortstop Shawn Dunston leaps over Cincinnati baserunner Barry Larkin.

innings as the Pirates overcame a seven-run Houston first inning.

Mike Dyer pitched 2 1/2 hitless innings for his second save.

Jeff Bagwell was 4-for-5 with a homer and three RBIs, increasing his NL-leading total to 85 RBIs.

The Pirates do not have an official club record for best comeback, although they staged their greatest extra-inning come-

Sanders' 15th homer capped the Reds' third, when Cincinnati sent 10 batters against Banks.

Only 16 homers have been hit into Riverfront's red seats since the Reds moved there in June 1970. Kevin Mitchell was the last to reach the upper deck on May 13, 1993.

Phillies 4, Dodgers 3

Knuckleduster Tom Candiotti limited host Philadelphia to four hits in six innings, helping the Dodgers earn a split with a win in the nightcap.

In the first game, David West allowed three hits in seven innings and Jim Eisenreich drove in two runs as the Phillies snapped a six-game losing streak.

Candiotti (7-4) struck out three and walked three before he was relieved by Ismael Valdez in the seventh. Todd Worrell pitched the eighth and ninth for his eighth save, allowing a pinch-hit homer to Jim Eisenreich.

Los Angeles snapped a 1-1 tie with two runs in the sixth off Danny Jackson (11-4).

AMERICAN LEAGUE

Yankees 10, Mariners 8 (11)

Danny Tartabull singled in two runs in the 11th inning to keep visiting New York in first place with another comeback victory.

The Yankees rallied in the ninth inning off walks to Wade Boggs and Don Mattingly. After Tim Lincecum relieved, Mike Stanley bounced into a fielder's choice and Paul O'Neill walked to load the bases. Tartabull then grounded a sharp single up the middle to drive in Boggs and Stanley.

Rookie Joe Mauer (1-0) pitched two scoreless innings of relief for his first major league victory in his second career appearance.

AMERICAN LEAGUE

East Division				
	W	L	Pct.	GB
New York	52	38	.579	—
Baltimore	52	38	.581	.5
Boston	44	44	.500	8.5
Cleveland	41	48	.459	12.0
Toronto	36	49	.424	15.5

Central Division				
	W	L	Pct.	GB
Cleveland	52	34	.605	—
Chicago	53	35	.602	—
Kansas City	47	41	.533	7.0
Minnesota	42	48	.467	11.0
Milwaukee	41	48	.461	12.5

West Division				
	W	L	Pct.	GB
Texas	48	46	.511	—
Seattle	48	46	.511	—
California	38	53	.418	8.0
San Diego	37	52	.416	8.5

Rominger exits Tour NY Rangers coach calls it quits

ALBI, France (AP) — Miguel Indurain received a special 30th birthday present yesterday as the Tour de France rider billed as his toughest challenger, Tony Rominger, quit the race.

Barely able to keep up with the pack, the Swiss cyclist finally succumbed to a "severe diarrhea" that had left him weak and dehydrated, team doctor Benjamin Fernandez said.

Rominger got off his bike about 40 kilometers from the end of the 13th stage, from Bagneres de Bigorre to Albi.

Bjarne Riis of Denmark, fifth in the Tour last year, won the stage on a late-breakaway. The route covered a flitty flat 223 kilometers after two tough stages in the Pyrenees.

Indurain celebrated his 30th birthday in the leader's yellow jersey he has become accustomed to wearing in three Tour victories. He kept it again yesterday, maintaining his overall lead though he came in nine seconds behind Riis in the pack.

Virtually all the standings remained unchanged, with everyone except Indurain moving up one place due to Rominger dropping out.

Rominger had thought he was suffering from an intestinal virus since

earlier in the week and hoped the stage wouldn't be too fast, to allow him some time for recovery.

He never could get in the race. His Mapei teammates tried to lead him back when he was flagging, but Rominger finally spoke with his team director and got off his bike.

Rominger became the latest victim of the powerful Spaniard, who has rolled over further ahead in time trials and mountain climbs as his challengers falter or drop out, one by one.

Three-time champion Greg LeMond of the US went by the sixth stage. Britain's Chris Boardman, prologue winner and early leader, quit before the mountains. Italian Claudio Chiappucci, in the top six the last four years, failed to start the 12th stage.

Rominger, expected to be Indurain's chief competition after an impressive win in May's Tour of Spain, fell behind by minutes, not seconds, this week and was 7:56 behind Indurain when he quit.

After Rominger dropped out, Frenchman Richard Virenque inherited second place, also at 7:56 behind. Another French cyclist, Armand de Las Cuevas, was third at six seconds further back.

Sunday's stage is from Castres to Montpellier, 202 kilometers.

NY Rangers coach calls it quits

NEW YORK (AP) — Mike Keenan, who last month coached the New York Rangers to their first Stanley Cup in 54 years, shocked the team Friday by saying he was leaving because of a "breach of contractual obligations."

"I'm here to announce that I'm no longer the coach of the New York Rangers," Keenan told a news conference at the headquarters of The Sports Network in Toronto.

"The obligations were not fulfilled" by the Rangers, he said. "There's quite a significant amount of money involved."

The Rangers said Keenan's departure was news to them.

Madison Square Garden Corp., which owns the team, said it was "stunned at the capricious actions of Mr. Keenan and his agent, (Robert) Campbell, and will take all necessary actions to preserve all of its rights."

MSG said it learned of Keenan's news conference at the Canadian sports channel through the media.

The 44-year-old Keenan declined to elaborate on the contractual differences with the Rangers because of what he termed "legal implications."

"If you had remuneration coming to you at a certain time and you didn't receive it," he said, declining to provide further details.

"Legal counsel advises me I have no other choice at this time. I want to make it explicitly clear that I did not resign."

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More private eyes held in case of illegal bugging

RAINE MARCUS

TWO private investigators suspected of employing Hani Mazaki, a known wiretapping specialist, to bug phones for their clients, were remanded on Friday by Tel Aviv Magistrates Court.

The suspects, former policemen Ya'acov Eshel, owner of the Iram investigations company, and investigator Zion Shrawi were remanded for seven and five days respectively.

Mazaki, also an ex-policeman and former Bezak employee, was remanded for 10 days after police said they suspect him of scores of wiretapping offenses. He was convicted several years ago for tapping journalist Mordechai Gilat's phone in connection with the Aryeh Deri affair.

Both Eshel and Mazaki are under suspended prison sentences for similar offenses and are not cooperating with investigators.

The court hearings followed a police raid last week during which 18 people allegedly involved in wiretapping were arrested.

But a police source said the raid was organized to distract public attention from a major wiretapping investigation involving private investigators Rafi Friedman and Ya'acov Tsur, presently awaiting trial for tapping phones and mobile phones of politicians, businessmen, and newspaper employees.

Police are still no nearer to discovering who commissioned the wide-scale tapping and are mishandling the investigation, said the source. No suspects have been summoned for questioning, he added.

"This latest raid is a PR exercise to show we are doing something about wiretapping, following the public outcry after it was discovered that famous personalities were being bugged in the Friedman/Tsur case," said the officer.

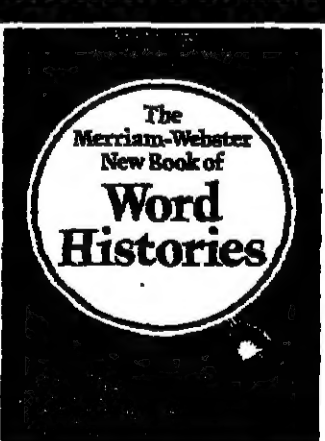
Last week's raid revealed two husbands who tapped their wives' phones to get evidence against them for divorce courts.

Lea Biderman, a Bezak employee suspected of giving Mazaki information on phone lines and phone exchange boxes, was released on NIS 10,000 bail. She allegedly met Mazaki when the latter worked at Bezak and according to an officer was paid "peanuts" for providing him with information.

Four employees of Eshel's investigation company — Uri Tsubeni, Zvi Leibovitz, Amnon Shenberg, and Guy Daniels — were placed under house arrest. They are suspected of installing bugs in exchange boxes and other related offenses. Police had asked for their remand "to prevent them from destroying evidence, to enable us to investigate additional offenses, and to trace wiretapping equipment which has disappeared."

On Thursday private investigator Eli Gershoni, who a police representative said is suspected of carrying out wiretapping together with Friedman and Tsur, was remanded by Petah Tikva Magistrates Court for six days.

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Suspected car thief Ohad Dror is returned to Tel Aviv Magistrates Court on Friday after escaping briefly from the courtroom where he was waiting for a remand hearing. Dror, 38, leaped over the judge's bench and fled through the chamber door. He was caught by a policeman some 15 minutes later after a chase, while hiding in a building opposite the courthouse. (Alan Ron/Israel Sun)

Jewish Agency chiefs suggest Ehud Barak as the kind of leader needed as chairman

ALON PINKAS

A GROUP of Jewish Agency leaders, discouraged by prospects of changing the agency through regular channels, is in the process of launching a grassroots campaign for its transformation.

The agency "no longer needs a figurehead nearing the end of his career, but a high profiled young and ambitious leader, able and willing to set a new agenda and reprioritize the Jewish Agency's role," a leading member of the group, Board of Governors member Ben-Zion Aaron of Philadelphia, who was recently elected as the treasurer of the United Israel Appeal, told The Jerusalem Post.

"We are looking for new blood, successful and visionary individuals,

not more political appointees. We are thinking of people such as Ehud Barak, Maj.-Gen. Meir Vilnay, Prof. Itamar Rabinovich, Prof. Shlomo Ben-Ami, or leading businessmen or writers. Going through organizational and bureaucratic channels to achieve changes has thus far failed, which is why we need to appeal to public opinion to both understand the many and important projects the agency is dealing with and realize that it is transforming itself."

The chairman of the Jewish Agency, who must be an Israeli, is recommended by the prime minister.

Aaron said the agency has traditionally been the principal organization dealing with Israel-Diaspora relations, especially Israel-US Jewry relations, but in recent years has been perceived as an aging and wasteful organization, filled with political appointees.

"There has been significant reorganization, for example the reconstitution of the composition of the agency and the abolition of the political departments, but as the exclusive agent of spending UJA money in Israel, we need more recognition and appreciation from the Israeli public which has grown critical of the agency," he said.

Histadrut coalition talks deadlocked

MICHAEL YUDELMAN

HISTADRUT coalition talks between Labor and Ram stalled once again on Friday, with both sides failing to reach agreement over the distribution of senior positions.

The new executive is to convene next Sunday to elect the new executive bureau, which constitutes the Histadrut's "government." However, both Ram and Labor still have internal problems to settle concerning the allocations of positions.

An added complication was supplied by Pnini Shomer, who received the highest vote at last week's election of Labor's executive bureau

members, and is now demanding the most senior position instead of former secretary-general Haim Haberfeld.

Shomer advised reporters over the weekend that Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin — whom Shomer supports — will insist on giving him the most senior position in the executive bureau, since he received the largest number of votes. Labor leaders are now talking about leaving Haberfeld

with only the title of faction chairman, and no operative position at all.

Labor has not yet decided whether it wants to trade the union section or the organization and labor council section. Ram, on its part, has still to settle which positions Ramon's four people will receive in the executive bureau, in addition to Mapam's four, the CRM's two, and Shas's single member.

According to the coalition agreement initiated by Ram and Labor leaders before the Histadrut convention, the position distribution must be completed by July 20.

Coming in from the cold, Jerusalem and Pretoria must reassess ties

NEWS ANALYSIS

JOHANNESBURG (Reuters) — The special relationship forged between South Africa and Israel when they were regarded by some states as international pariahs is coming under strain as both emerge from the cold.

"They were never bosom-buddies, but were forced together into a special relationship," said university professor Gordon Freer.

"When you're in lepers' fraternity with no one else to talk to, you speak to your fellow outcasts," said Freer, from the University of Witwatersrand's Department of International Relations.

He described remarks to Reuters by South African Defense Minister Joe Modise signaling an end to the special links as a "cold shower" to a previously cozy relationship.

Modise on Wednesday compared Israel's policies to apartheid and said it had been an embargo-busting arms supplier to the former white-led government.

Despite a speedy attempt by Foreign Minister Alfred Nzo to limit the political and diplomatic fallout caused by Modise's comments, Freer said he believed links would never be as close as they were in the 1970s and

'80s when both countries were reviled and publicly shunned by most of their neighbors.

"The ANC [African National Congress] has relations with a number of Israel's historic enemies, including the PLO."

"As in the case of choosing between ties with Taiwan or Beijing, the new ANC-led South Africa is walking a very thin tightrope in foreign relations with Israel," said Freer.

Geoff Fitchat, senior Middle East

manager at the South African Foreign Trade Organization (SAFTO), said he believed the "special relationship" ended in February 1990 when then president F.W. de Klerk lifted a ban on opposition groups and began dismantling apartheid.

Non-military trade between Israel and South Africa last year totaled more than \$370 million. Western analysts put the value of the arms trade, including jet fighters and alleged co-operation on nuclear weapons, at hundreds of millions more.

Trade sources suggested there was some unease in South African quarters over outstanding military deals with Israel including upgrade packages for outdated Cheetah fighter jets.

"The feeling is that they [the Israelis] took us for a ride because of our isolation," said an official.

Diplomats in South Africa said they were surprised by the tone of Modise's remarks.

And Nzo's explanation that his cabinet colleague's remarks were made "specifically with reference to matters relating to arms sales and arms contracts" did not wash.

"Whatever is being said, the relationship with Israel has changed. But perhaps that's not a bad thing. Both countries are emerging into a world that once isolated and shunned them for policies that excluded most of their people," said an African diplomat.

Tip leads to police probe of access to medical licensing exam

JUDY SIEGEL

POLICE are investigating whether Israeli physicians who studied abroad cheated on a local licensing exam after receiving a copy of the questions beforehand.

Pending the results of the investigation, the Health Ministry may require 1,400 applicants to take the exam again. The police are acting on an anonymous tip.

On Friday, meanwhile, Tel Aviv Magistrates Court remanded for four days Meravi Moshishvili, 28, an Ashdod resident, in connection with

the cheating incident.

The four-hour, two-part exam was held at the Tel Aviv Exhibition Grounds last Thursday to applicants for a medical license and for permission to begin internship programs.

The day before the exam, an anonymous letter reached the scientific council of the Israel Medical Association, which is responsible for preparing the tests. The writer claimed that some of the applicants had illegally

obtained a copy of the exam.

As a result, the ministry prepared an alternate version of the test.

In a check carried out during the first half of the test, a stolen copy of the original exam was found in the possession of one of the applicants. In order not to harm all of those taking the exam, the test was not halted, but the alternate version of the second half of the exam was given to all.

The ministry said it will consider ways of assessing the test results and may cancel it altogether.

NEWS IN BRIEF

Clalit aims to reduce waits for surgery

Kupat Holim Clalit's national center for reducing queues for surgery resumed functioning last week.

Health fund members who are waiting an "unreasonable" period for an operation are asked to call 03-6923329 or 6923605 from 8 a.m. to 2.30 p.m. Sundays through Thursdays. If the wait at Clalit hospitals is too long, some operations may be performed at private hospitals, the health fund spokesman said.

Legion of Honor for local professor

Weizmann Institute Prof. Ruth Arnon was awarded the French Legion of Honor at the Bastille Day celebration hosted by the French Embassy in Tel Aviv-Jaffa last week.

The award was made in recognition of her achievements in cancer and immunology research and her role in strengthening scientific ties between France and Israel during her five years as institute vice president.

Kessar wants traffic fines doubled

Transport Minister Yisrael Kessar wants to double the fine imposed on drivers who commit serious traffic violations, such as running red lights or stop signs.

"I have no doubt that doubling the fine will both deter drivers and ease the load on the court system. The average fine today is NIS 300, which is low in comparison to those imposed on serious violators in other countries," Kessar said last week during a special meeting on the matter with Justice Minister David Liba'i, Police Minister Moshe Shabai, and Inspector General Assaf Hefetz.

Unidentified murder victim discovered

The body of an unidentified man, apparently murdered by several blows to the head, was discovered Friday morning in a ditch alongside the Ashkelon-Gaza road near Kibbutz Zikkim.

Initial examination by a pathologist indicated the man had probably been killed on Thursday night, but the nature of the head wounds made identification difficult. Police ruled out the possibility the man had been killed by terrorists.

Pilots show solidarity with Ron Arad

Some 100 pilots from all over the country flew light and ultra-light planes to Hod Hasharon on Friday in a demonstration of solidarity with missing IAF navigator Ron Arad, whose family lives in the town. Each plane bore a sign reading "Hod Hasharon is waiting for Ron."

Some 1,000 people, most of them local residents, were waiting for their arrival, including Knesset Speaker Shevah Weiss, as the planes landed one after the other.

Architect Eldar Sharon, 61

Architect Eldar Sharon, one of the country's foremost practitioners of his profession, died Friday morning at the age of 61. Born in Tel Aviv, Sharon was one of the designers of the Bat-Yam Municipality and the development town of Mizpe Ramon. Together with his father, architect Arye Sharon, Eldar Sharon designed the faculty of medicine at Tel Aviv University, the Israeli pavilion at Expo '67, Israel-America House, and the Yad Mordechai Museum. Sharon, a Technion graduate, also designed five hospitals: Rambam in Haifa, Soroka in Beersheba, Ichilov in Tel Aviv, Beilinson in Petah Tikva, and Wolfson in Holon. He is survived by five children — two of them architects.

South African police check alleged Mossad role in two more murders

JOHANNESBURG (Reuters) — South African police probing two murders they believe were committed by Israeli agents have added another two killings to their investigations, newspapers reported yesterday.

Detectives were studying whether a double murder in the eastern Cape city of Port Elizabeth last May was connected to the other killings, the papers said.

In the Port Elizabeth killings, Scott Aytton and Felix Coetzee were tied up in the home of Aytton's parents and shot in the back of the head.

Police at the time could suggest no motive but Port Elizabeth police spokesman Henry Chalmers was

quoted as saying there could be a link to the killing of Allan Kider and Wynand van Wyk.

Johannesburg police have said they believe the Mossad killed Kider in November 1991 and van Wyk in April last year in an effort to halt the shipment of strategic chemicals to Israel's enemies.

Detectives have also reopened inquiries into two apparent suicides which they believe could be connected to the plot.

The police allegations of Mossad involvement have been denied by Israeli Ambassador Alon Liel, who has sought an explanation from the South African Foreign Ministry.

Dog sniffs out hash and heroin worth NIS 1.5

RAINE MARCUS

A COCKER spaniel trained to sniff out drugs led Lod Police to 20 kg. of hashish and 2 kg. of heroin hidden in a fence surrounding a home in the city yesterday. Police estimated the street value of the drugs at NIS 1.5 million.

Police arrested a 22-year-old known drug dealer and his parents, who are suspected of assisting their son in the dealing and destroying evidence.

A 10-year-old girl was also detained for questioning after she fled the house clutching a plastic bag containing tens of thousands of shekels, allegedly profits from her family's drug dealing. After a chase, police caught her, but released her after a couple of hours.

The raid followed prolonged surveillance of dealing on the premises of the family home. Police said they have sufficient evidence to convict the suspects even if they deny the offenses. At present, all three refuse to cooperate with investigators.

The hashish was embossed with a Lebanese seal, indicating its country of origin, police said.

The man and his parents are expected to appear in Ramle Magistrates Court for a remand hearing Monday. More arrests of drug dealers in the area are expected soon, said police.

Child council warns parents to put bars on windows

RAINE MARCUS

THE National Council for the Child is calling on parents of small children to install bars on their home windows, following last week's death of a baby who was thrown out of a window by her sister in Ashdod.

NCC director Yitzhak Kadman is also urging the Labor and Social Affairs Ministry to fund funding to help low-income families safeguard children's bedrooms.

"This is especially important in high-story apartments," said Kadman.

Several accidents involving children falling out of windows have occurred over the last few weeks, including one in which a Petah Tikva toddler was saved when she was caught by a neighbor after falling from a third-story window.

"Luckily the children only suffered slight injuries in these recent cases," said Kadman.

British telecom firm wants to buy into Bezeq

JUDY SIEGEL

THE British telecommunications company Cable and Wireless has expressed interest in buying Bezeq shares.

The chairman of the company, Lord Young, met with Bezeq director-general Yitzhak Kaul in London last week to discuss the proposal. The British firm is also willing to sell some of its stock to Bezeq.

Kaul said the proposal must be brought before the government, as it owns majority control of Bezeq. After the next issue, the government's share in the company will drop to 51 percent.

The British company suggested that Kaul send a professional team to London to study the company's market potential.

Over the past year, Cable and Wireless has been conducting experiments on "TV by demand" — in which subscribers can select movies that are beamed into their TV via a regular phone cable. If the two companies cooperate, this service may be one of those on which they will work together, Kaul said.

Kaul also met in London on Friday with the chairman of the board of British Telecom to discuss options for Israel's joining a major bloc of world telecommunications. A statement on joining one of the blocs will be discussed by Bezeq's board of directors in the near future.

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